Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Shaposhnikov, Ivashov on CIS Defense Ministers Meeting

WS1102123093 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 1

[Article by VO SLAVU RODINY correspondent Lieutenant-Colonel V. Aron: "Strategic Nuclear Forces: 'Belarus and Russia Agree on This Issue.' That Was Belarusian Defense Minister P. Kozlovskiy's Answer to Journalists' Questions on Position of Two Neighboring Countries on Strategic Nuclear Forces"]

[Text] The issue of nuclear weapons located on the territories of four republics of the former USSR—Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan—was at the core of talks at the meeting of the defense ministers and representatives of the Defense Ministries of the CIS. The meeting was held on 21 January, 1993 in Minsk.

Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the CIS Combined Armed Forces, struck an optimistic cord at the meeting. He said the following: We have not gathered for a long time. We have many issues to solve, but we are ready to solve most of them. Despite the rumors about the reasons behind moving the date of our meeting, Ye. Shaposhnokov said: "The CIS will not die. We are entering a new stage of constructive dialogue."

It was difficult for journalists to learn about the results of the meeting, because the press conference was not held and they had to be contented with the short commentaries of the participants of the meeting. In particular, L. Ivashov, secretary of the CIS Council of Defense Ministers, remarked on the nonproblematic and stable position of Belarus; on the solvable position of Kazakhstan; and on problematic position of Ukraine. The last word is up to the leaders of the states.

L. Ivashov has also stated that the work was constructive and there was a movement towards the rapprochement of positions. They have discussed the draft agreement on the use of satellite communication systems for military purposes and their further improvement; the draft agreement on far radio navigational protection in the CIS. The following issues have been discussed: realization of agreements and elaboration of acts on defense issues; functional duties of the deputy commander in chief of the CIS Combined Armed Forces; social and legal guarantees for groups of military observers and collective forces for keeping peace in the CIS; a report on the use of the allocations for provision of activities and maintenance of the personnel of the High Command of the CIS Armed Forces in 1992; the number of personnel of working groups at the legations of the Armed Forces of the countries - members of the CIS at the High Command of the CIS Armed Forces; the working plan of the CIS Council of Defense Ministers for the current year.

At the same time, the participants of the meeting blamed a general from the Russian Defense Ministry who at the "Ostankino" television show on 19 January, 1993 called a Russian officer performing his military service within the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan a traitor. In his response to this statement, Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov said: "The Soviet Army is no longer alive. But the armies of the CIS are international. An officer can freely choose which army suits him best."

Shushkevich Admits Dissent Exists on Nuclear Disarmament

LD1202092193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Feb 93 pp 1, 3

[Igor Sinyakevich report: "United States Guarantees Belarus Nuclear Security. Telephone Conversation Between Bill Clinton and Stanislav Shushkevich"]

[Text] In the evening of 9 February, at the initiative of the White House incumbent, a telephone conversation took place between Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus, and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

According to the Supreme Soviet press service's official account, the U.S. President, on his own account and on behalf of the American people, saluted the chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet and the parliamentarians for their consistent steps toward Belarus acquiring the status of a neutral and nuclear-free state. Bill Clinton rated highly the Belarusian Supreme Soviet's ratification on 4 February this year of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I) and the Lisbon protocol thereto, and also the decision on the accession by the Republic of Belarus to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The U.S. President assured the Belarusian leader that the United States will provide the republic with security guarantees.

Apart from financial aid under the Nunn-Lugar Act, readiness was expressed to give Belarus additional support in tackling the problems associated with the practical fulfillment of its commitments under the aforementioned treaties. Bill Clinton informed Stanislav Shushkevich of his intention to hold consultations on these matters at the level of foreign policy departments.

According to well-informed sources, during the conversation, which lasted about 20 minutes, agreement was reached on a meeting in March 1993 between U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and Belarusian Foreign Minister Kravchenko.

It has become known from Belarusian diplomatic sources in Washington that the White House is entirely satisfied with the conversation. Those who were present in the Oval Office at the time note that Bill Clinton is also pleased with the fact of the conversation and its content and tone.

On 10 February Stanislav Shushkevich met with a small group of journalists. The Belarusian leader stated that "the seven-year period of withdrawal of nuclear forces

from the republic's territory is the maximum limit laid down in international agreements. We will seek to reduce it to two and a half years." The Supreme Soviet chairman noted that he considers fears about the vulnerability of mobile nuclear missiles in Belarus to possible theft to be unfounded. Answering your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent's question on whether there are political forces in Belarus which hold a different view from the official one on nuclear policy, Stanislav Shushkevich replied in the affirmative but declined to name these forces. "We had different approaches. We sought to maintain the proclaimed course of seeking nuclear-free status. But there were many comments to the effect that in that case people would not take any notice of us, that we would not have any clear guarantees, and so forth. As a result of lengthy discussion in parliament and thorough scrutiny in the Supreme Soviet commissions and Presidium, after listening to our opponents' arguments, we reached the decision unreservedly to ratify the START I Treaty and the Lisbon protocol and to accede to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a nuclear-free state. We set no preliminary conditions, but the United States, in the person of the President, has stated that it will give us nuclear guarantees. This great nuclear power understands the correctness of our steps and will protect us from threats by nuclear states should the need arise. My conversation with Bill Clinton yesterday shows that a policy of high morality gets the best results."

It is extremely important that even Stanislav Shushkevich himself confirmed reports that there are those in the Belarusian leadership who propose that nuclear disarmament should not be hurried. So the Belarusian parliament's virtually unanimous approval of the aforementioned documents was largely dictated merely by the desire to avoid an international scandal. It is hardly likely that those deputies who are opposed to nuclear disarmament underwent a sincere change of heart during the parliamentary hearings.

Russia Sends Proposal to U.S. Senate on START

LD1202002493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1820 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Feb—The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet committees for international affairs, foreign economic relations, and defense and security matters, as they set about examining the START II Treaty between Russia and the United States that has been submitted for ratification, have sent a number of proposals to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees.

The START II Treaty, the message says, is seen by the world as representing a further easing of international tension and an enhancement of security and stability throughout the world. The consolidation of the nuclear powers is especially needed now, on the threshold of a world community determining the future fate of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, whose term elapses in 1995. The interests of the world community in ensuring nuclear security require a voluntary renunciation by all nonnuclear countries of the possession of nuclear weapons based on reliable united guarantees by the nuclear states that peace will be upheld, the message of the parliamentary committees emphasizes.

They propose to their U.S. colleagues that a number of possible additional commitments by both parties be discussed in the framework of the START II implementation, in particular, a commitment by Russia and the United States to reduce the number of nuclear warheads by 2005-2010 to a level commensurate with the numerical level of other nuclear powers; also to confirm Russia's and the United States' adherence to a strict observance of the ABM Treaty of 26 May 1972.

The undertaking of these commitments, the message from the Russian parliamentary committees says, will create a necessary treaty foundation for establishing a single ceiling for strategic offensive armaments for the five nuclear states in the very near future, for working out common guarantees for nuclear security, and for introducing an effective system to monitor the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

The Russian parliamentary committees confirmed their proposal expressed earlier that joint Russian-U.S. hearings on all aspects of the START II Treaty be held during the ratification process.

Grachev, Kozyrev To Attend Meeting on START Ratification

OW1102165693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1548 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Russian parliament's Committee for Defence and Security, Sergey Stepashin, informed INTERFAX that the appeal has also been sent to Russian defence and foreign ministers Pavel Grachev and Andrey Kozyrev, who, with Head of the Russian Intelligence Service Yevgeniy Primakov and Security Minister Viktor Barannikov, will attend the special meeting of the parliament's presidium on February 22 which will concentrate on the forthcoming parliamentary hearings on the ratification of the START-2 Treaty.

"Andrey Kozyrev and I have agreed not to spur the ratification process because during the hearings all the pro's and con's should be carefully weighed-out," said Stepashin.

He also said that the hearings are expected to begin at the end of February and end in April.

Commentator Views START II Ratification Process

LD1102223293 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1910 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Vladislav Kozyakov commentary]

[Text] President Yeltsin has submitted the START II Treaty for parliamentary ratification following its signing in Moscow early last month. Legislators will start debating it on 22d February. Comment is by Vladislav Kozyakov and this is what he writes:

The process of the START II Treaty's ratification opens a second front of offensive on the stockpiles of strategic nuclear arms. During the first stage, in the fight for the earliest possible ratification of the START I accord, battles already led to certain results. Four of its five signatories have completed ratification—the four are Russia, the United States, Kazakhstan and Belarus. The ball is now in Ukraine's court.

However on both fronts there is still a lot to do to overcome many hurdles. Even in the current situation when Ukraine is the only one of the five countries slowing down the coming of the START I Treaty into effect, the hesitance of the parliament in Kiev continues. This troubles not only the other participants in the treaty but the world community as a whole. All the more so, Russia, the United States and Britain have already taken concrete steps towards Ukraine which has set a number of terms for the ratification of the treaty. For one thing, President Kravchuk of Ukraine noted before the start of his trip to Britain that at their last meeting in Kiev Ukraine and Russian experts have made much progress on such issues as the transportation, stockpiling and dismantlement of nuclear weapons in Ukraine. Nonetheless, ratification of the accord has been postponed to March or April.

As for the upcoming ratification of the Russian-American START II Treaty in Moscow, it may be delayed too. According to press reports the treaty has opponents who argue, as some Western experts do, that the accord ensures unilateral military advantage for the United States. It's not ruled out that the parliamentary debates may be affected by the political unrest in this country. That would be the worst outcome.

And yet a forecast for ratification in Kiev and Moscow alike is far from skeptical. The START Treaties are historic achievements. Their implementation will lead to a drastic reduction of American and Russian arsenals, down to 3,500 nuclear warheads for each against the current 10,000 warheads. Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus would remain countries free of nuclear weapons. Ratification of the signed agreements and their coming into force would meet the lofty national interests of each country because that would consolidate international security and stability. The twentieth century could go down in history not only by letting the dangerous genie out of the bottle but also by starting to get rid of it effectively.

Ukraine 'Not Haggling' Over Nuclear Weapons

MK1102100193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 3

[Interview with Boris Tarasyuk, Ukrainian deputy foreign minister and chairman of the National Committee for Disarmament Questions, by Vladimir Skachko; place and date not given: "'We Are Not Haggling Over Anything With Anyone.' Financial Aspect of Nuclear Disarmament"]

[Text] It has been reported that the question of ratification of the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms Reduction [START I] and of Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons is on the agenda for the Seventh Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Session. Boris Tarasyuk, Ukrainian deputy foreign minister and chairman of the National Committee for Disarmament Questions, tells us about the situation surrounding this issue and the conditions for its resolution by the Ukrainian parliament.

[Tarasyuk] There is a lot of talk in the world today about Ukraine delaying the treaties' ratification, but this is not a delay, there is no delay. The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet commission has been studying these questions in depth for six months. By a decision of the presidium, a deputies' group was set up to draw up documents for examination. I took part in this group's work as an expert. Organizationally, it is divided into five subgroups for various areas of work, and the work consists in studying all the possible consequences of ratification.

[Skachko] Do you know what the balance is in parliament between the "nuclear doves" and the "nuclear hawks"?

[Tarasyuk] We know that there is a group of deputies in parliament who are opposed to the ratification of the START I Treaty and accession to the Nonproliferation Treaty, and indeed to a nuclear-free status for Ukraine. But nobody has conducted a serious poll on these problems, so it would be wrong to talk about the numerical ratio of opponents to supporters of these documents. I think we may be talking about the existence of an active group of deputies studying this question, while the vast majority have yet to make up their minds. I also wish to say that the Supreme Soviet's attitude to ratification and accession is generating increasing interest in the world. I saw this for myself during a visit to the United States 6-8 January this year.

[Skachko] It is well known that the main result of that visit was the reiteration of U.S. readiness to provide Ukraine with written security guarantees in the event of its ratification of the START I Treaty and accession to the Nonproliferation Treaty. On the other hand, various news media claim that the American side does not understand what kind of guarantees Ukraine is demanding. Could you clarify this?

[Tarasyuk] When we talk about guarantees of Ukraine's security on the part of the nuclear states, this is nothing new for official Washington, since we have been conducting talks on the subject since April last year. We take this view of guarantees: In the event that Ukraine ratifies the START I Treaty and accedes to the Nonproliferation Treaty as a nuclear-free state, the most important question for it will be national security. Ukraine is a young state which is going through a period of the establishment of the main institutions of statehood, including the Armed Forces. We cannot yet claim that Ukraine has its own Armed Forces; they are at the stage of being reshaped and formed. Our military-industrial complex, which hitherto was an integral part of the former USSR's military-industrial complex, is in the same situation. In addition, Ukraine is not a member of any military-political bloc, and cannot be, since it has renounced membership of blocs [provozglasila vneblokovost]. In this situation the question of safeguarding national security arises, especially when calls to change the borders can be heard and territorial claims against Ukraine are being made in neighboring states. We believe that Ukraine's security can be based not only on the existence of its own Armed Forces, but also on Ukraine's participation in appropriate international structures. We see the best prospect in creating an all-European security system, for which the Ukrainian side presented an initiative at the forum on questions of cooperation in the security field currently being held in Vienna. Ukraine's initiative has won very many supporters, and we are now preparing a detailed document which will provide an opportunity to gain a better understanding of our stance in terms of the creation of this system. If created, it will become a reliable security guarantee not only for Ukraine, but also for other European countries, particularly the members of the former Warsaw Pact. The so-called "security vacuum" which has developed in Eastern and Central Europe compels these states to seek their own ways to safeguard security, and Ukraine is not alone in this desire. We also need guarantees as a state which has every right to be a nuclear state, as an equal legal successor to the USSR, but which itself wishes voluntarily to get rid of nuclear weapons.

[Skachko] But people say that in 1968 the nuclear states, aware of their responsibility for maintaining peace and stability in the world, guaranteed security to all other states, and so obviously the question arises: What more does Ukraine want?

[Tarasyuk] Yes, it is true that those guarantees were offered. But, first, in 1968 Ukraine did not exist as an autonomous state. Second, the guarantees were offered by a member of the UN Security Council that no longer exists, namely the USSR. Russia, which was permitted to take that place in the Security Council, has not confirmed these guarantees to Ukraine, and meanwhile certain Russian political circles are today putting forward at the highest level territorial claims against Ukraine. That is why we are today demanding security guarantees from all the nuclear states that are permanent members of the UN Security Council, which, under the UN Charter, are charged with special responsibility for maintaining peace and stability in the world. Today we already have draft documents on guarantees from the United States, Britain, and Russia. Unfortunately, we cannot regard the Russian version as satisfactory, and therefore we are now waiting for the statement which Russian President Boris Yeltsin made during his meeting with our president in Moscow to be embodied in an appropriate document. The document on security guarantees to Ukraine should contain three main points: first, exclusion of the possibility of aggression against Ukraine by nuclear states using either nuclear or conventional arms. Second, nonuse of economic pressure against Ukraine to secure economic or political advantages. Third, unconditional recognition and respect for territorial integrity and inviolability of Ukraine's present borders.

[Skachko] What can you tell us about the recent Ukrainian-Russian talks in Irpen near Kiev on questions of Ukraine's receiving compensation from Russia for the nuclear weapons?

[Tarasyuk] We have to resolve the main problem: what the conditions will be for the dismantling and destruction of weapons, because Ukraine considers itself the owner of the physical components of the weapons and has an interest in receiving, for instance, uranium—not weapons-grade, but industrial, less concentrated, which could be used as fuel for Ukraine's nuclear power stations. We are also willing to accept the monetary equivalent of this uranium. It is not only a matter of compensation for the warheads [boyezaryady] of the strategic nuclear weapons that we still have, but also for the warheads [boyezaryady] of the tactical nuclear weapons that were removed to Russia in the spring of last year. The first round of talks in Irpen, initiated by the Ukrainian side, was devoted to resolving these questions. We hope that a second round will be held in late February, because the positions and views set forth by the two sides in Irpen differed, and time is needed for analysis and the possible mutual adjustment of positions. Another problem at the Irpen talks was that of maintaining nuclear safety in relation to the strategic nuclear weapons stationed in Ukraine. To this end it is necessary to ensure that regulatory work is carried out within the context of manufacturer's and technical maintenance of nuclear missile systems by those who manufactured and installed these systems. Ukraine is sometimes accused of preventing this maintenance. That is not true. On the contrary, Ukraine has an interest in ensuring that maintenance under guarantee is carried out according to the same schedules and on the same scale as was stipulated hitherto. Furthermore the guaranteed life of certain systems is approaching its end, and we are talking about a real nuclear danger from these missiles not only for Ukraine, but for all the neighboring states too.

[Skachko] What would you say about the following point of view, which is current in the world: that Ukraine is deliberately delaying ratification and traveling around

the world haggling, trying to get as much money as possible in exchange for the nuclear missiles, so as to use this money for current expenditure in the economy?

[Tarasyuk] This view is totally unfounded. Ukraine is not haggling over anything with anyone, it is acting on the basis that the program for dismantling nuclear missile systems requires considerable resources, and that allocating those resources, in the context of an economic crisis, is not and cannot be the top priority for the Ukrainian Government today. We simply don't have the money. That is why, during contacts with our foreign partners, we do not bargain over some specific sum, we explain that we are counting on help of a kind that will enable us to eliminate nuclear arms on schedule following ratification of the START I Treaty. And the idea is that this financial aid would be given for a special purpose—solely for the destruction of nuclear systems and the resolution of the associated problems. We are also trying to explain that the pace of destruction of nuclear weapons is directly dependent on the existence of the appropriate material and technical facilities. In Washington we said once again, look, we are grateful to the United States for the intention to allocate $175 million to us, but we stressed that the scale of the expenditure necessary to destroy the nuclear weapons is much greater than that.

[Skachko] What should the sum be?

[Tarasyuk] We cannot say today, because some of the technologies for the missile destruction process do not even exist. They still have to be developed, and you have to calculate the money according to the technologies, not the other way about. President Leonid Kravchuk, realizing that it is beyond our powers today to finance independently the programs for the destruction of nuclear missile systems, put forward at the recent world economic forum in Davos the idea of creating an international nuclear disarmament fund, which would offer a real opportunity for all interested states to join in providing financial aid for the elimination of nuclear weapons. It should be a special-purpose fund which can be used by any state seeking to get rid of its nuclear potential.

Documents From CIS Heads of State 22 Jan Meeting

'Decision' on CIS Charter

PM1102163393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Feb 93 First Edition p 6

["Decision of the Council of the Heads of States of the Commonwealth of Independent States" adopted in Minsk on 22 January]

[Text] The heads of the states of the Commonwealth of Independent States have resolved:

1. To adopt the Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States (herewith attached) and to recommend it for ratification.

2. Until the entry into force of this Charter the Commonwealth is to function in accordance with the agreements concluded and decisions adopted within the framework of the CIS.

Completed in the city of Minsk on 22 January 1993 in one authentic copy in the Russian language. The authentic copy is lodged in the Archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which will send to the states which have signed the Decision an attested copy.

[Signed] For the Republic of Armenia, L. Ter-Petrosyan
For the Republic of Belarus, S. Shushkevich
For the Republic of Kazakhstan, N. Nazarbayev
For the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, A. Akayev
For the Republic of Moldova [no signatory]
For the Russian Federation, B. Yeltsin
For the Republic of Tajikistan, E. Rakhmonov
For Turkmenistan [no signatory]
For the Republic of Uzbekistan, I. Karimov
For Ukraine [no signatory]

'Statement' by Council

PM1102171993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Feb 93 First Edition p 6

["Statement by the Council of the Heads of States Belonging to the CIS" adopted in Minsk on 22 January 1993]

[Text] The agreements adopted and the mechanisms elaborated within the Commonwealth make it possible to regulate problems of political, economic, humanitarian, military, and other cooperation by international legal means.

The heads of CIS member-states are united in the view that the Commonwealth possesses the requisite potential to improve its activity on the basis of existing agreements. However, all the participants in the conference of CIS heads of states in Minsk state their resolve to continue efforts to improve the effectiveness of CIS activity in the economic and political spheres.

The states which have signed and those which have not signed the Decision on the CIS Charter will concentrate their efforts first and foremost on finding ways to overcome the economic crisis and on forming effective ties among the components engaged in economic activity during the transition to market relations.

The heads of state deem it essential to remove persisting obstacles to the development of mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

The heads of state consider that the CIS countries' relations, above all their economic relations, will serve to ensure conditions for normal cooperation among those countries.

The Decision on the CIS Charter is open for signature by those states which are prepared to sign it.

Completed in the city of Minsk on 22 January 1993 in one authentic copy in the Russian language. The authentic copy is lodged in the Archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which will send an attested copy to the states which have signed the Statement.

[Signed] For the Republic of Armenia, L. Ter-Petrosyan
For the Republic of Belarus, S. Shushkevich
For the Republic of Kazakhstan, N. Nazarbayev
For the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, A. Akayev
For the Republic of Moldova, excluding the political sphere, M. Snegur
For the Russian Federation, B. Yeltsin
For the Republic of Tajikistan, E. Rakhmonov
For Turkmenistan, S. Niyazov
For the Republic of Uzbekistan, I. Karimov
For Ukraine, L. Kravchuk

Text of CIS Charter

PM1202112193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Feb 93 First Edition p 6

["Charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States"—ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA headline]

[Text] The states which have voluntarily united within the Commonwealth of Independent States (hereinafter the Commonwealth), basing themselves on the historic community of their peoples and the ties established between them,

acting in accordance with the generally recognized principles and norms of international law, the provisions of of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, and other documents of the CSCE,

seeking to ensure by joint efforts the economic and social progress of their peoples,

fully resolved to implement the provisions of the Agreement on the Creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the protocol to that Agreement, and the provisions of the Alma-Ata Declaration,

developing cooperation among themselves to ensure international peace and security and equally for the purpose of maintaining civil peace and interethnic accord,

desiring to create conditions for the preservation and development of the cultures of all the peoples of the member states,

seeking to improve the mechanisms of cooperation in the Commonwealth and enhance their effectiveness,

have decided to adopt the Charter of the Commonwealth and have agreed on the following:

Section I. Aims and Principles

Article 1

The Commonwealth is founded on the principles of the sovereign equality of all its members. The member states are autonomous and equal subjects of international law.

The Commonwealth promotes the further development and strengthening of the relations of friendship, good neighborliness, interethnic accord, trust, mutual understanding, and mutually advantageous cooperation among the member states.

The Commonwealth is not a state and does not possess supranational powers.

Article 2

The aims of the Commonwealth are:

cooperation in the political, economic, ecological, humanitarian, cultural, and other spheres;

the all-around and balanced economic and social development of member states within the framework of the common economic space, and interstate cooperation and integration;

the guaranteeing of human rights and basic freedoms in accordance with the generally recognized principles and norms of international law and documents of the CSCE;

cooperation among member states to ensure international peace and security, the implementation of effective measures to reduce arms and military expenditure, the elimination of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction, and the achievement of general and complete disarmament;

assistance to citizens of member states in free association, contacts, and movement within the Commonwealth;

reciprocal legal assistance and cooperation in other spheres of legal relations;

peaceful solution of disputes and conflicts between Commonwealth states.

Article 3

In order to achieve the Commonwealth's aims member states, proceeding on the basis of the generally recognized norms of international law and the Helsinki Final Act, build their relations in accordance with the following interconnected principles of equal value:

respect for the sovereignty of member states, for the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination, and for the right to determine their future without external interference;

inviolability of state borders, recognition of existing borders, and rejection of unlawful territorial acquisitions;

territorial integrity of states and rejection of any actions aimed at dismembering another state's territory;

nonuse of force or the threat of force against the political independence of a member state;

resolution of disputes by peaceful means in such a way as to avoid jeopardizing international peace, security, and justice;

supremacy of international law in interstate relations;

noninterference in one another's internal and external affairs;

the guaranteeing of human rights and basic freedoms for all regardless of race, ethnic origin, language, religion, and political or other convictions;

conscientious discharge of commitments assumed under Commonwealth documents, including this Charter;

consideration of one another's interests and of the interests of the Commonwealth as a whole, provision of assistance in all spheres of their mutual relations on the basis of mutual assent;

the pooling of efforts and provision of support to one another for the purpose of creating peaceful conditions of life for the peoples of Commonwealth member states, and the ensuring of their political, economic, and soocial progress;

development of mutually advantageous economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, and expansion of the processes of integration;

spiritual unity of their peoples, based upon respect for their identity, and close cooperation in the preservation of cultural values and cultural exchange.

Article 4

The following belong to the spheres of joint activity of member states and are carried out on an equitable basis via common coordinating institutions in accordance with the commitments assumed by member states within the framework of the Commonwealth:

guaranteeing human rights and basic freedoms;

coordinating foreign policy activity;

cooperating in forming and developing a common economic space, the pan-European and Eurasian markets, and customs policy;

cooperating in developing systems of transport and comunications;

protecting health and the environment;

questions of social and migration policy;

struggle against organized crime;

cooperating in the sphere of defense policy and the protection of external borders;

This list may be extended by the mutual assent of member states.

Article 5

Multilateral and bilateral agreements in various spheres of member states' mutual relations form the fundamental legal basis of interstate relations within the framework of the Commonwealth.

Agreements concluded within the framework of the Commonwealth should correspond to the aims and principles of the Commonwealth and the commitments of member states under this Charter.

Article 6

Member states promote the cooperation and development of ties among state organs, public associations, and economic structures.

Section II. Membership

Article 7

The states which have signed and ratified the Agreement on the Creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States of 8 December 1991 and the Protocol to that Agreement of 21 December 1991 by the time of the adoption of this Charter constitute the founding states of the Commonwealth.

The founding states which assume commitments under this Charter within one year of its adoption by the Council of the Heads of States constitute the member states of the Commonwealth.

A state which shares the aims and principles of the Commonwealth and assumes the commitments contained in this Charter can also become a member of the Commonwealth by joining to it subject to the assent of all member states.

Article 8

On the basis of a decision by the Council of the Heads of States, a state desiring to participate in certain categories of Commonwealth activity may join the Commonwealth as an associate member on the terms set by the agreement on associate membership.

By decision of the Council of the Heads of States, representatives of other states may attend sessions of Commonwealth organs as observers.

Questions concerning the participation of associate members and observers in the work of Commonwealth organs are regulated by the rules of procedure of such organs.

Article 9

A member state has the right to secede from the Commonwealth. A member state shall inform the depositary of the Charter of such intention in writing 12 months prior to secession.

The commitments which arise during the period of participation in this Charter are binding upon the relevant states until they are discharged in full.

Article 10

Violations of this Charter by a member state or the systematic nonfulfilment by a state of its commitments under agreements concluded within the framework of the Commonwealth or of decisions by Commonwealth organs shall be examined by the Council of the Heads of State.

Measures permitted under international law may be applied to such a state.

Section III. Collective Security and Military-Political Cooperation

Article 11

Member states shall pursue a coordinated policy in the sphere of international security, disarmament, arms control, and the organizational development of the Armed Forces and shall maintain security in the Commonwealth by, inter alia, groups of military observers and collective peacekeeping forces.

Article 12

In the event of a threat to the sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity of one or several member states or to international peace and security, member states shall immediately activate the mechanism of mutual consultations with the aim of coordinating positions and adopting measures to eliminate the threat, including peacemaking operations and the use, where need be, of Armed Forces in exercise of the right to individual or collective self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

The decision on the joint use of the Armed Forces shall be made by the Council of the Heads of States of the Commonwealth or the interested member states of the Commonwealth in line with their national legislation.

Article 13

Each member state shall take appropriate measures to ensure a stable situation along the Commonwealth member states' external borders. On the basis of mutual assent member states shall coordinate the activity of border troops and other competent services which exercise control and bear responsibility for ensuring observance of the prescribed procedure governing the crossing of member states' external borders.

Article 14

The Council of the Heads of States is the Commonwealth's supreme organ on questions concerning the defense and protection of member states' external borders. Coordination of the Commonwealth's military-economic activity shall be exercised by the Council of the Heads of Governments.

Collaboration by member states in the implementation of international agreements and the resolution of other questions in the sphere of security and disarmament shall be organized by joint consultations.

Article 15

Specific questions of member states' military-political cooperation shall be regulated by special agreements.

Section IV. Preventing Conflicts and Resolving Disputes

Article 16

Member states shall take all possible measures to prevent conflicts, primarily along interethnic and interreligious lines, which could entail violation of human rights.

They shall, on the basis of mutual agreement, render assistance to one another in settling such conflicts, including within the frameork of international organizations.

Article 17

Commonwealth member states shall refrain from actions which could be detrimental to other member states and result in the exacerbation of potential disputes.

Member states shall conscientiously and in a spirit of cooperation make efforts toward a fair and peaceful resolution of their disputes through talks or the achievement of accord on an appropriate alternative procedure for settling the dispute.

If member states do not resolve the dispute via the means indicated in the second part of this article, they may refer it to the Council of the Heads of State.

Article 18

The Council of the Heads of States is empowered, at any stage of a dispute whose continuation could threaten the maintenance of peace or security in the Commonwealth, to recommend to the parties an appropriate procedure or methods for settling the dispute.

Section V. Cooperation in the Economic, Social, and Legal Spheres

Article 19

Member states shall cooperate in the economic and social spheres along the following avenues:

forming a common economic space on the basis of market relations and the free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor;

coordinating social policy, elaborating joint social programs and measures to ease social tension in connection with the implementation of economic reforms;

developing systems of transport and communications and energy systems;

coordinating credit and financial policy;

promoting the development of member states' trade and economic ties;

encouraging and mutually protecting investments;

promoting the standardization and certification of industrial goods and commodities;

legally protecting intellectual property;

promoting the development of a common information space;

implementing joint environmental protection measures, providing mutual assistance in eliminating the consequences of environmental disasters and other emergency situations;

implementing joint projects and programs in the spheres of science and technology, education, health care, culture, and sports.

Article 20

Member states shall cooperate in the sphere of the law, in particular by concluding multilateral and bilateral treaties on affording legal assistance and shall promote the alignment of national legislation.

In the event of conflicts between the norms of member states' national legislation regulating relations in spheres of joint activity, member states shall hold consultations and talks for the purpose of elaborating proposals to remove those conflicts.

Section VI. Organs of the Commonwealth

The Council of the Heads of State and the Council of the Heads of Governments

Article 21

The Council of the Heads of States is the supreme organ of the Commonwealth.

The Council of the Heads of States, in which all member states are represented at top level, shall discuss and resolve fundamental questions connected with member states' activity in the sphere of their common interests.

The Council of the Heads of States shall assemble for sessions twice a year. Extraordinary sessions of the Council may be convened on the initiative of any one of the member states.

Article 22

The Council of the Heads of Governments shall coordinate the cooperation of member states' organs of executive power in the economic, social, and other spheres of common interest.

The Council of the Heads of Governments shall assemble for sessions four times a year. Extraordinary sessions of the Council may be convened on the initiative of any one of the member states' governments.

Article 23

Decisions of the Council of the Heads of States and the Council of the Heads of Governments shall be made by common assent—consensus. Any state may declare it has no interest in a particular question, which should not be regarded as an obstacle to the adoption of a decision.

The Council of the Heads of States and the Council of the Heads of Governments may hold joint sessions.

The working procedure of the Council of the Heads of States and the Council of the Heads of Governments shall be regulated by the Rules of Procedure.

Article 24

The heads of states and heads of governments shall take the chair at sessions of the Council of Heads of States and Council of Heads of Governments by rotation in the Russian alphabetical order of the names of the Commonwealth member states.

Sessions of the Council of Heads of States and Council of Heads of Governments shall be held as a rule in the city of Minsk.

Article 25

The Council of Heads of States and the Council of Heads of Governments shall create working and auxiliary organs on both a standing basis and a temporary basis.

These organs shall be formed from representatives of the member states vested with the corresponding powers.

Experts and consultants may be invited to participate in their sessions.

Article 26

Conferences of leaders of the corresponding state organs shall be convened to resolve questions of cooperation in individual spheres and to elaborate recommendations for the Council of Heads of States and the Council of Heads of Governments.

The Foreign Ministers Council

Article 27

The Foreign Ministers Council, on the basis of decisions of the Council of Heads of States and the Council of Heads of Governments, shall coordinate the foreign policy activity of the member states, including their activity in international organizations, and shall organize consultations on questions of world policy of mutual interest.

The Foreign Ministers Council shall perform its activity in accordance with the Statute approved by the Council of Heads of States.

Coordinating and Consultative Committee

Article 28

The Coordinating and Consultative Committee is the standing executive and coordinating organ of the Commonwealth.

In execution of the decisions of the Council of Heads of States and the Council of Heads of Governments, the Committee:

elaborates and submits proposals on questions of cooperation within the framework of the Commonwealth and of the development of socioeconomic ties;

promotes the implementation of accords in specific areas of economic mutual relations;

organizes conferences of representatives and experts for the preparation of draft documents to be submitted to sessions of the Council of Heads of States and Council of Heads of Governments;

ensures the holding of sessions of the Council of Heads of States and the Council of Heads of Governments;

assists the work of other Commonwealth organs.

Article 29

The Coordinating and Consultative Committee is made up of permanent plenipotentiary representatives, two from each Commonwealth member state, and a committee coordinator, appointed by the Council of Heads of State.

For the purposes of providing organizational and technical backup for the work of the Council of Heads of State, the Council of Heads of Government, and other Commonwealth organs, the Coordinating and Consultative Committee has a Secretariat, headed by the committee coordinator—deputy chairman of the Coordinating and Consultative Committee.

The Committee operates in accordance with the Statute ratified by the Council of Heads of State.

The Committee's seat is in the city of Minsk.

The Defense Ministers Council; The Joint Armed Forces High Command

Article 30

The Defense Ministers Council is an organ of the Council of Heads of State on questions of military policy and the military organizational development of the member states.

The Joint Armed Forces High Command exercises leadership of the Joint Armed Forces, as well as of groups of military observers and collective forces maintaining peace in the Commonwealth.

The Defense Ministers Council and the Joint Armed Forces High Command perform their activity on the basis of the relevant statutes ratified by the Council of Heads of State.

The Council of Commanders of Border Troops

Article 31

The Council of Commanders of Border Troops is an organ of the Council of Heads of State on questions of the protection of the external borders of member states and the provision of a stable situation along them.

The Council of Commanders of Border Troops performs its activity on the basis of the relevant Statute ratified by the Council of Heads of State.

The Economic Court

Article 32

The Economic Court operates for the purpose of ensuring the fulfillment of economic commitments within the framework of the Commonwealth.

The jurisdiction of the Economic Court includes the settlement of disputes arising in the fulfillment of economic commitments. The Court may also settle other disputes referred to its jurisdiction by agreements of member states.

The Economic Court is empowered to interpret the provisions of agreements and other Commonwealth acts on economic issues.

The Economic Court performs its activity in accordance with the Agreement on the Status of the Economic Court and the Statute on it ratified by the Council of Heads of State.

The seat of the Economic Court is in the city of Minsk.

Commission on Human Rights

Article 33

The Commission on Human Rights is a consultative organ of the Commonwealth and monitors the fulfillment of commitments on human rights which the member states have assumed within the framework of the Commonwealth.

The Commission comprises representatives of Commonwealth member states and operates on the basis of the Statute ratified by the Council of Heads of State.

The seat of the Commission on Human Rights is in the city of Minsk.

Organs of Sectoral Cooperation

Article 34

On the basis of agreements between the member states on cooperation in the economic, social, and other spheres, organs of sectoral cooperation may be established to carry out the elaboration of agreed principles and rules of such cooperation and to promote their practical implementation.

The organs of sectoral cooperation (councils, committees) perform the functions envisaged in the present Charter and in the provisions on them, ensuring the examination and settlement on a multilateral basis of questions of cooperation in the relevant spheres.

Leaders of the corresponding organs of executive power of the member states are members of the organs of sectoral cooperation.

The organs of sectoral cooperation adopt recommendations within the limits of their competenceand, whenever necessary, also submit proposals for consideration by the Council of Heads of Government.

The Working Language of the Commonwealth

Article 35

The working language of the Commonwealth is Russian.

Section VII. Interparliamentary Cooperation

Article 36

The Interparliamentary Assembly holds interparliamentary consultations, discusses questions of cooperation within the framework of the Commonwealth, and elaborates joint proposals in the sphere of the activity of national parliaments.

Article 37

The Interparliamentary Assembly comprises parliamentary delegations.

The organization of the activity of the Interparliamentary Assembly is carried out by the Council of the Assembly, which comprises leaders of the parliamentary delegations.

Procedural questions of the activity of the Interparliamentary Assembly are regulated by its Standing Orders.

The seat of the Interparliamentary Assembly is the city of St. Petersburg.

Section VIII. Finances

Article 38

Expenditure on financing the activity of the Commonwealth organs is apportioned on the basis of proportional participation by the member states and is set in accordance with special agreements on the budgets of the Commonwealth organs.

The budgets of the Commonwealth organs are ratified by the Council of Heads of State on the basis of proposals by the Council of Heads of Government.

Article 39

Questions of the financial and economic activity of the Commonwealth organs are examined according to the procedure established by the Council of Heads of Government.

Article 40

Member states are autonomously responsible for the expenditure associated with the participation of their representatives, experts, and consultants in the work of Commonwealth conferences and organs.

Section IX. Final Provisions

Article 41

The present Charter is subject to ratification by the founding states in accordance with their constitutional procedures.

The instruments of ratification are handed over to the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which will notify the other founding states of the submission of each instrument for safekeeping.

The present Charter enters into force for all founding states from the moment instruments of ratification have been handed over for safekeeping by all founding states, or, for the founding states which have handed over their instruments of ratification, one year following the adoption of the present Charter.

Article 42

Amendments to the present Charter may be proposed by any member state. Proposed amendments are examined in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council of Heads of State.

Amendments to the present Charter are adopted by the Council of Heads of State. They enter into force following ratification by all member states in accordance with their constitutional procedure, from the date on which the Government of the Republic of Belarus receives the last instrument of ratification.

Article 43

In the process of ratifying the present Charter, the Commonwealth's founding states may make reservations and appeals [ogovorki i zayavleniya] on Sections III, IV, and VII and on Articles 28, 30, 31, 32, and 33.

Article 44

The present Charter will be registered in accordance with Article 102 of the UN Charter.

Article 45

The present Charter has been done in one copy in the state languages of the Commonwealth founding states. The original copy is stored in the Archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which will send certified copies thereof to all founding states.

The present Charter was adopted 22 January 1993 at the session of the Council of Heads of State in the city of Minsk.

Consultative Committee Holds Talks on CIS Integration

LD1002205693 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 10 Feb 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The overall economic problems are forcing real steps to be taken. There was a meeting today in Minsk about a coordinating consultative committee of the CIS countries.

[Correspondent Aleksey Zhuk] The need has arisen for more precise interaction between the CIS states in tackling economic problems, in particular. Virtually no one would argue with this today. In fact, the leaders of the Commonwealth countries, at their conference in Minsk, once again reaffirmed their readiness for closer integration, despite differing approaches on individual points. And one of the decisions of the summit meeting was to set up a coordinating consultative committee of the CIS.

The experts who gathered in Minsk today have begun working out a statute, which is due to define this committee's functions.

Meanwhile, here, in the headquarters, not everything is fine as regards working conditions. We learned that telephone links with the government have been cut off for nearly a week in the offices of the CIS working group. This is officially explained by the impossibility of guaranteeing confidentiality when making calls. Experts believe the real reason lies in the fact that commercial structures, a number of international organizations, and foreign missions are located in this very building.

8 States Form TV, Radio Company

LD1202112693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1022 GMT 12 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow February 12 TASS—Eight CIS states founded on Friday [12 February] the Interstate TV and Radio Company (MTRK) and called on other former Soviet republics to follow suit.

The founders of the new company include Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It will air its programmes for three hours daily on the first tv channel.

The decision to create such a company was adopteed in principle during the CIS summit in Minsk, but representatives of the eight countries signed a corresponding agreement after two days of talks in Moscow.

Gadilbek Shalakhmetov from Kazakhstan was appointed chairman of the MTRK by the Council of CIS Heads of State.

"We are convinced that interstate broadcasts based on equal cooperation will reflect common interests and play a positive role in distributing objective information," the founders of the company said in a statement. "We are sure that the broadcasts will help states and citizens restore and strengthen historical economic, cultural and spiritual ties," they added.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 12 Feb

LD1202065593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0632 GMT 12 Feb 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 12—Most morning Moscow newspapers focus their attention on the Thursday [11 February] meeting of President Yeltsin, chairman of parliament Khasbulatov and chairman of the Constitutional Court Zorkin.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an article on this subject under the headline "Yeltsin, Khasbulatov, Zorkin: Will Harmony Be Achieved in 'Big Triangle'? If So, Will It Be Translated Into Real Politics?" According to the newspaper, "the president and the speaker of parliament actually crossed swords at the meeting, the former using the prospect of a referendum as his weapon, and the latter—the prospect of a congress." The decision of the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies to hold a referendum on Russia's state setup, adopted late in 1992, triggered delimitation in the Russian political forces and aggravated rivalry between the executive and legislative branches of authority. The newspaper writes about the results of the meeting with reference to the president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov that the sides agreed to regard it as a preliminary one, because they had not yet begun to discuss the main problem—Russia's state setup and confined themselves to discussing the procedure of the negotiations. TRUD quotes Yeltsin as saying that "the curtailment of preparations for the referendum is just out of the question."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and other newspapers set forth Yeltsin speech at the meeting of the Russian Government, held in the Kremlin on Thursday under his chairmanship, in which he analysed the economic and political situation in the country. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA used as a lead to its article on this subject the president's words that he does not agree with the idea that 1992 was the year of economic failure. In his opinion, the failure would have been inevitable, had it not been for the beginning of the reform.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports the opening of the all-Russian conference on anti-crime struggle that opens in the Kremlin today. Its participants will analyse the situation in the law enforcement sphere and formulate the main tasks facing law enforcement agencies and the interdepartmental commission for the anti-crime struggle under the Security Council, which was recently put under the supervision of Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. Some 4,000 organised crime groups were uncovered in Russia in 1992, about 1,000 of them having international and inter-regional connections.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries a large article about the politisation of society in this country. The newspaper stressed that it is not always a positive phenomenon. It gives preference to the "activity in the economic sphere" which, in its opinion, would be a really positive factor.

PRAVDA publishes an interview with Valeriy Zorkin, in which he mentioned the right of communists to convene their congress, set up their committees and so on. "Communists should not be stripped of their constitutional right to unification, naturally, if they abide by the terms set by the Constitution and the resolutions of the Constitutional Court, he believes. [no closing quotation marks as received] According to Zorkin, "now it is necessary to support all forces working for the preservation of Russia's integrity and its transformation in the interests of the people."

Newspapers highlight the worsening of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh where fierce fighting is going on between the Azeri and Armenian troops.

Bartholomew Arrives for Talks on Former Yugoslavia

OW1202122193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1135 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] U.S. Ambassador to NATO Reginald Bartholomew should arrive in Moscow from Brussels on Friday afternoon [12 February]. A newly appointed American representative at the talks on settlement in former Yugoslavia, Mr. Bartholomew is to meet and negotiate with Russia's foreign minister Andrey Kozyrev and his deputy Vitaliy Churkin, who is in charge of Yugoslav affairs at the RF [Russian Federation] Foreign Department.

A senior Russian diplomat has told an IF [INTERFAX] reporter that one of the chief subjects for talks will apparently be the Vance-Owen plan for a settlement in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the issue on sanctions against Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

If the latest statements by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher are anything to go by, Washington is inclined to toughen sanctions against Yugoslavia. As for Russia, in Mr. Churkin's words, it, on the contrary, believes that Belgrade has begun to play an "active and constructive role" in settling the Bosnian conflict. In an interview with an IF correspondent on Thursday, the deputy minister noted that it was still too early to speak about the abolition of sanctions, but if all sides really accepted the Vance- Owen plan, the chances to slacken them would improve.

Kozyrev Says West Made 'Mistakes' on Yugoslavia

LD1102195793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By V. Skvortsov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev was the guest of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA today. As expected, the most pressing question was one about settling the Yugoslav conflict.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] The West—we will put it like this—has made a number of mistakes with regard to the Yugoslav situation. For a long time they insisted on preserving Yugoslavia as a unified state, about the same as here in the Soviet Union. [end recording]

All this time Russia held a position that was considerably different from others, aimed, as Kozyrev stressed, at settling and developing relations with all Slavonic states.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] We simply did not allow Yugoslavia to be excluded from the United Nations. For several months, back in the spring, we put off imposing sanctions. [end recording]

Today the new plan of Lord Owen and Vance, which in many respects coincides with Russia's position, offers a realistic chance of resolving the conflict.

Churkin Welcomes U.S. Position on Plan for Yugoslavia

OW1102182293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1745 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] It would probably be unrealistic to think that a suggestion that sanctions against Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) be loosened would now find "sufficient support," said Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin in a Thursday interview with INTERFAX. He added that such an idea would have better chances of success "when the Vance-Owen plan is adopted" for regulating the situation in Bosnia and Hercegovina.

He said that after the adoption of the Vance-Owen plan, it might be possible to say that the conflict in Serbia and Montenegro had been settled under the influence of Belgrade, and that as a result it might be possible to raise the question of loosening the sanctions. Still, said Churkin, one should not think that oven then such a resolution would be passed immediately." "The burden of the serious conflict is still quite heavy," he said. "The bitter taste of what has happened will for some time cast a shadow over dealings with the former Yugoslavia."

Speaking about Croatia's offensive in Serbian Krajina, Churkin said that "unfortunately, the UN Security Council's Resolution 802 has not been implemented" and that the situation in Krajina remains tense. He also noted that Moscow is closely following developments in that region so as to be ready for taking further measures, including within the framework of the UN Security Council.

Churkin welcomed Washington's decision to back the Vance-Owen plan. There are reasons to assert that our position and contacts with the American Administration have played a definite role in taking such a decision, even though there were many other factors which had led Bill Clinton to such a conclusion, he said. "Our assessment of the situation in former Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, and on ways of settling the crisis have very much in common," he added.

Commentary Views U.S. Proposals To Solve Bosnian Crisis

LD1102164593 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Commentary by Yuriy Solton; from the "News and Views" program]

[Text] In the commentary that follows, Yuriy Solton discusses the United States proposals to settle the Bosnian crisis and this is what he writes:

Before the United States made its proposals public it had consultations with its European allies and Russia. Bill Clinton in a telephone talk informed the Russian President Mr. Yeltsin of the decisions they had adopted and hoped Russia would use its political influence in the region to settle the Bosnian crisis through negotiations. Washington is mindful of the position of the European Community and Russia which gives support to the Vance-Owen plan to reconcile the three warring communities—the Serbs, the Croatians, and Muslims. All proposals for a direct armed intervention have been rejected. The United States has said it will energetically support efforts of the United Nations and the European Community to find a way out of the stalemate. In future Washington intends to take an active part in the talks. The former Deputy Secretary of State and currently the United States representative in NATO, Reginald Bartholomew, has been appointed special envoy of the American government at the talks. Yet addressing the news conference in Washington, the United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher, did not exclude the use of force either. He said this was a common problem and the burden of it should be shared by all. As it stipulated, the United States (?can only) join if necessary the United Nations and NATO contingent to supervise the agreement that would be reached. Well informed sources report that the Russian Foreign Ministry does not exclude the possibility that Russian troops will also help to supervise an agreement if it is reached. However, the American proposals appear to have serious drawbacks. This is primarily their anti-Serbian orientation. Warren Christopher said the United States informed the Serbs that the aggression would cost them dearly. Moscow cannot agree to such a one-sided approach. Responsibility for the conflict rests with all those who are guilty of continuing and expanding the conflict, which is the source of suffering for all—the Serbs and the Croatians and the Muslims. Nonetheless, now that the positions of the United States have acquired clear outlines and these either coincide or are much similar, real opportunities have appeared to resolve the Bosnian crisis through talks. Talks with an active involvement of the United Nations Security Council could give good results in the circumstances. Russia intends to work in close cooperation with the direct parties to the conflict and all other states to find a peace settlement at the negotiating table.

Official Denies Military Technology Cooperation With PRC

OW1102214493 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1300 GMT 11 Feb 93

[From the "Good Evening, China" program]

[Text] Listeners and friends: Russia's KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries a short article by its special correspondent Kabanikov in Beijing. The article says: The latest edition of Hong Kong's FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW weekly states: China, which originally planned to buy a Varyag-class aircraft carrier from the Ukraine, now wants to purchase an aircraft carrier from Russia. China wants to buy a Kiev-class aircraft-carrying cruiser with a 38,000-tonne displacement. Because of sharp reductions in military spending, Russia last year scrapped the program to build this warship. A highly effective warship, this aircraft carrier was built in a Ukrainian shipyard and has been in service for many years. It is much cheaper than the $2.5-billion Varyag-class flattop. It seems that Chinese military organizations cannot afford to buy a Varyag- class aircraft carrier.

According to the weekly, China views the purchase of an aircraft carrier as an essential part of its plan to beef up its fleet in the South China Sea and around Taiwan, although Chinese leaders have openly denied their plans to acquire an aircraft carrier. Beijing has explicitly threatened to launch an armed attack against Taiwan once the latter declares independence. As revealed by the weekly, Chinese leaders expressed interest in buying an aircraft carrier during Russian President Yeltsin's visit to China in December.

The Editorial Department of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA has contacted the National Defense Export Joint Company, an affiliate of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. This organization specifically handles matters regarding the sale of Russian weapons to foreign countries. The company's general manager (Karagoranov) declined to comment on this report in the Hong Kong weekly. Relevant personnel from the Navy Press Office under the Russian Ministry of Defense told the weekly's publishers that they would not [words indistinct] any information on relevant issues.

In a television address, (Vilchinko), director of the China Department under the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, flatly stated: During his visit to China, Yeltsin did not discuss any issues regarding military technological cooperation with China.

Shakhray Receives Chinese Ambassador

LD1102235093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2115 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, 11 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Sergey Shakhray, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy, received (Wang Jinqing), the ambassador to Russia of the People's Republic of China. They discussed issues relating to interethnic relations. S. Shakhray clarified the guiding principles of the nationalities policy in Russia. During their conversation, they also touched upon issues connected with economic development of China and the Russian Federation. It was pointed out that it was important to study China's experience, taking into account the specific conditions of that country. They expressed a hope that mutually advantageous cooperation between Russia and China, which received a new

impetus during the course of the recent visit to China of the Russian president, would develop consistently in all spheres, including that of interethnic relations. Mr. (Wang Jinqing) confirmed the invitation to S. Shakhray to visit the People's Republic of China. The timing of the visit will be established via diplomatic channels. In turn, the chairman of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy of the Russian Federation passed on an invitation to the leadership of the committee for interethnic relations of China to come to Moscow on an official visit.

Glazyev Explains Foreign Economic Relations Policy

PM1102165593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 2

[Mikhail Berger report: "Russia Must Pay Creditors $40 Billion in 1993"]

[Text] This amount, equal practically to the larger part of the planned overall income from exports this year, will have to be paid unless agreement is reached on the deferment of debts. This was learned at a news conference given by Sergey Glazyev, Russian minister of foreign economic relations.

The total debt of the former USSR in hard currency, excluding debts to socialist countries and lend-lease debts, stands at $75.8 billion. Talks are constantly being held on the problem of Russia's foreign debt, and there is hope but no certainty of success. At the same time it is possible to assert that Russia is not in a position to pay even half of the said amount, even if all the plans of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations for this year, with which Sergey Glazyev familiarized journalists, are implemented in full.

The plans of which the minister spoke include the restoration of state control over exports of the most important types of commodities and over the currency receipts from them; the elimination of obsolete administrative regulation of foreign trade operations; the formation of the legal basis of Russia's economic relations with foreign countries; the encouragement of exports of commodities with a high degree of processing.

Centralized purchasing of raw material commodities for state needs, which are to meet Russia's requirements for critical imports, is being introduced in 1993. The volume of these operations will total approximately $11 billion. Centralized imports of food and of raw materials for its production will total more than $6 billion this year. The registration of exporters of strategically important commodities began last year precisely in order to ensure such a volume of centralized operations. It was probably for the same reason that their registration was virtually suspended recently (the register includes approximately 500 exporters of raw materials, including 80 oil exporters).

The minister accounted for the suspension of registration by saying that changes will, perhaps, be made to legislation so that exports of strategic raw materials, primarily oil, are included on the list of types of activity needing to be licensed. Such an amendment will most likely pass through parliament without difficulty, since the largest and most influential sellers of oil have already been registered and have little interest in its further expansion.

In order to avoid charges of stepping up state regulation of foreign economic activity, so Sergey Glazyev reported, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations will probably start putting out tenders in March for the right to conduct export and import operations for state needs.

Touching on questions of currency regulation, the minister said that the introduction of 100-percent sales of currency proceeds, which he announced earlier, remains a long-term task. At present the federal authorities do not have adequate levers to fulfill it, nor to end cash currency transactions on the territory of Russia.

On the whole, the first news conference by Sergey Glazyev as minister of foreign economic relations confirmed the concept which he announced during the first days after his appointment: no revolutions or global surprises on the foreign economic front.

Moscow To Receive Grain Imports From Europe, Australia

OW1202002493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1548 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia is experiencing virtually no problems with ensuring grains supplies despite the fact that the USA had suspended credits for grain purchases as of December for delayed repayments of loans granted earlier, Leonid Cheshinskiy, the president of the "Roskhleboprodukt" Federal Contract Corporation, told Interfax.

Cheshinskiy said that state purchases of grain within Russia had exceeded those planned by 1.5 million tons. The total purchase was 26 million tons. "Roskhleboprodukt", which is responsible for supplying grain to the nation, intends to purchase another 2.2 million tons from producers shortly at an average cost of 33,000 rubles per ton (2.5 times more than the average price last fall).

Cheshinskiy announced that credits from the EC for the purchase of 2.6 million tons of grain began to be received at the end of last week and that credit from France for 2.5 million tons would be received from France February 15. Credit from Australia for the purchase of 1 million tons has also been endorsed. The Australian credit will be used to supply the Far East and Siberia.

Virtually no grain was imported by Russia during January due to the non-fulfillment by Russia of financial obligations to the USA and Canada, last year's largest suppliers. Canada halted new credits to Moscow last September.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Reshuffles Presidential Consultative Council

LD1102155793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1445 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Feb—A regular sitting of the Presidential Consultative Council was held in the Kremlin today. Opening it, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said that "life is changing and there now is a need to renew the Council's membership." In his view, the work will be arranged according to problem areas. One group of Council members will be working on one problem area. The group members will have access to various materials and will be preparing the issue for discussion at the sitting.

Yeltsin then presented all Council members. Among the new names are former Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar; well-known lawyer Sergey Alekseyev; representative of the Supreme Soviet Council Yevgeniy Ambartsumov; nonstate service head Boris Grushin; academicians Andrey Zhukov and Nikita Moiseyev; "Avtovaz" Director Vladimir Kadannikov; and former USSR People's Deputy Aleksey Kazannik, who gave up his Supreme Soviet member mandate to Boris Yeltsin at the First Congress of People's Deputies.

Among the new members of the Council there are politologists Andranik Migranyan, Emil Pain, Georgiy Satarov, Sergey Karaganov and Russian People's Deputies Petr Filippov and Sergey Kovalev, and correspondents Otto Latsis and Alla Yaroshinskaya. This powerful membership will try to meet once a month, the president said. But the reality is such that we probably will be holding two meetings per quarter. The old members Georgiy Arbatov and Oleg Bogomolov, former head of the Ostankino Television and Radio Company Yegor Yakovlev, and a chairman of a Supreme Soviet Committee Yekaterina Lakhova have been dropped.

Yeltsin said that he thanked in writing all former members of the Council for their work. Yeltsin said that at 1800 [1500 GMT] he will meet Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin. Yeltsin said "we will try to make up." In this connection, Boris Yeltsin called on members of the Council to discuss the issue of referendum and "to speak out frankly whether the chairman likes it or not."

Outlines Plans

OW1102161393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin declared that he intends to make an attempt to reach an agreement and "will try to reconcile" during his meeting with participation of parliament's Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and leader of the Constitutional Court Valeri Zorkin scheduled for Thursday [11 February]. Addressing the session of the presidential Consultative Council in the Kremlin, he pointed out that "lack of coordination at the supreme level of power is a bad example for republics and regions which follow it." Yeltsin underlined that in 1993 it is necessary to announce moratorium on "political hand-to-hand fighting" and "to focus attention on economy." "We are standing on the very brink," said President.

Making comments on session of the government chaired by him (it was held on Thursday morning), the President said that though the prognosis for 1993 is rather complex, nevertheless, one can speak about possible stabilization, especially in industry.

Yeltsin announced that Consultative Council which has been working for a year and a half, will be transformed into a Presidential Council with permanent membership. As Yeltsin said, members of new council will have certificates "to pass everywhere." The new body, in which the mightiest intellects will be accumulated "for the good of Russia" will gather once every month and a half. Subject groups will be formed to develop [as received] concrete problems.

Many members of Consultative Council have been included into composition of Presidential Council, namely, St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak, leader of the Russian Movement of Democratic Reforms Gavriil Popov, presidential adviser on military issues Dmitriy Volkogonov, Academician Aleksey Yemelyanov, film producer Mark Zakharov, Academician and Russian Ambassador to France Yuriy Ryzhov, and others.

Academician Sergey Alekseyev, Ex-Premier Yegor Gaydar, politologist Andranik Migranyan, and scientist Sergey Karaganov are among new members of the council.

Yeltsin, Khasbulatov, Zorkin Meet To Discuss Differences

LD1102182193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1812 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and Constitutional Court President Valeriy Zorkin met behind closed doors in the green parlour of the Grand Kremlin Palace today to thresh out their differences.

The participants in the meeting decided against sitting at a traditional negotiating table and preferred soft arm chairs with nothing to divide them in-between.

Boris Yeltsin proposed holding such a meeting in his speech before the Constitutional Commission on Tuesday, saying he hoped it would help settle the conflict between the executive and the legislative branches of power.

Earlier today, Boris Yeltsin told an extended meeting of the Council of Ministers that "if the president, the Supreme Soviet chairman and the Constitutional Court president at their meeting in the afternoon fail to achieve accord, the people will then be called upon to say their weighty word. But I hope that accord will be found. For today's meeting I already have a package of proposals and am prepared for a serious discussion".

Kostikov Reviews Meeting

LD1102184593 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1530 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] [Announcer] We would like to bring you now a report we just received, and which remains the main theme for today and for the next few days; that is, the meeting between Boris Yeltsin, Ruslan Khasbulatov, and Valentin Zorkin. Here is a recording made by our correspondents.

[Begin Kostikov recording] The meeting has lasted one hour. I just had a talk with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. He said that so far they have not yet started discussing the questions that are at the root of today's political crisis. These questions are too complicated. Today's meeting should be viewed as a preliminary meeting devoted to the tactical problems of reaching an agreement. An agreement was reached on having regular meetings in the near future. The next meeting, by the way, will be held just between Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov without Zorkin so that Zorkin, as chairman of the Constitutional Court, can have an opportunity to remain a kind of disinterested judge.

The meeting was held in an atmosphere of correctness. The sides have agreed that, in the interests of reaching an agreement, the first glimpses of which have just started to appear at today's meeting, all polemics should be discontinued—and this includes the press. They also have agreed to have several more meetings. The first such meeting will be on Tuesday [16 February] at 1800—nobody has specified where as yet. On Tuesday both Boris Nikolayevich and Ruslan Imranovich will come with their own preliminary proposals for a constitutional agreement. The meeting will be held just between the two of them.

The next meeting will be on Thursday [18 February]. This meeting will be held within the framework of the conciliatory commission. I cannot say anything about the parameters of this meeting at this moment; they probably have not yet been determined. At the same time, as Boris Nikolayevich was leaving the meeting just now, he said that there can be no talk about curtailing preparations for the referendum. Preparations for the referendum are in full swing, but the process of searching for a compromise will continue along with this. He meant to say that if no agreement is reached after all, the referendum will still take place. The question of the expediency of convening the congress will be one of the themes at the next meeting. This is how the question is being worded at the moment. Well, Boris Nikolayevich also has said that today Ruslan Khasbulatov has shown him the 12 questions that the Supreme Soviet—to be more precise, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet prepared them—could be brought to the referendum. I should say that he has familiarized himself with these questions and said that they are completely unacceptable, and that he will have his own questions ready if the referendum takes place.

Saying goodbye just now, Boris Nikolayevich said that full-scale preparations for the referendum will continue. [end recording]

Yeltsin Addresses Council of Ministers' Meeting

LD1102215293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1845 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Speech by President Boris Yeltsin at the conclusion of a Russian Council of Ministers' meeting in Moscow on 11 February—recorded]

[Text] First of all, I am satisfied with today's discussion, which was very comprehensive. I think the composition of the participants in the session was justified; not only members of the government were invited, but also members of the Supreme Soviet, the leadership of the Supreme Soviet, the leadership of Supreme Soviet commissions and committees, people's deputies, heads of various structures, leaders of republics—republics' executive power—heads of administration, and governors of krays, oblasts, and autonomous okrugs, and on the whole, scientists and specialists. In brief, we had a wide spectrum of speeches, which gives us an opportunity to enrich very seriously the government's plan of action for 1993 that was presented to us. It goes without saying that the majority of these remarks should be taken into consideration.

Viktor Stepanovich [Chernomyrdin], I would like to draw your attention to the following: We regard the fact that we all signed the Federation Treaty as our great victory. At the same time, there are ministers and members of the government who claim in the media that it was absolutely useless. We do not want these ministers. [applause] Only those who precisely and firmly implement decisions should work in the government. Not only ministers—we even have a deputy chairmen of the government who cast doubt on privatization!

For us today this is one of the most important directions in our reform. And they shout at the top of their voice to the whole country, to the whole of Russia, and to the whole world: No, this is not the right time to deal with privatization—let us count nails instead.

Furthermore, I think that right and very strong words were said about regional policy today. To be perfectly frank, the government did not have a regional policy in 1992! There you have it! Not that it was not simply finalized, etc; it was not there at all. It began in 1991, then it was suppressed, and in 1992 nobody dealt with it.

Let us reanimate it. Let us include a whole section about regional policy in the government's plan of action. All the sharp words that have been said should be included in the government's plan of action for 1993; moreover, with dates, executors, and strict supervision. It is 1545—the government session is over. Thank you. Goodbye!

Criticizes 'Some' Ministers in Leadership

OW1102155293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1536 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has criticised the position of a number of members of the government with regard to burning issues in the nation's politics and economy. Speaking at an extended meeting of the Council of Ministers Thursday he cited defamatory remarks directed at the Federative Treaty, which he himself considered a "victory", as one example.

Yeltsin also pointed out that some vice-prime ministers were placing "our main directive-privatisation" under doubt. Such individuals, he said, should not be included among the leadership. In this connection the president expressed his regret over the absence of a system by which the efforts of members of the cabinet could be appraised. "The quality of ministers must not be judged by the expression on their faces," he said. He criticised the leadership of the Economy Ministry and said that he would make an appropriate response to the proposal to strengthen this.

The president, also with regret, drew attention to the fact that the government had not had a regional policy in 1992. In his opinion, one of the reasons why the central power bodies were unwilling to submit many issues to the regions for decision was corruption and bribery, "which flourish even in the highest echelons of power in Russia."

Regarding criticism directed at the Central Bank, Yeltsin pointed out that the tri-lateral meeting between Yeltsin, Khasbulatov and Zorkin would deal with this question. "This is not the way to work. It is probable that the bank will assume a dual accountability. The bank has no mechanism for determining the need for credits and has never had one," the president said.

Calls For 'Year of the Economy'

PM1202114593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed account of speech by Russian President Boris Yeltsin at the 11 February session of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, under the general heading "This Year Must Be the Year of the Economy and Not of Political Battles. 11 February. Moscow. The Kremlin. Session of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers": "Boris Yeltsin: I Hope Agreement Will Be Found"]

[Text] Opening the Council of Ministers session, Boris Yeltsin said:

I suggest that the session be conducted in a principled, open, and critical spirit so that we do not trip up this year, at least not in the same places as we tripped up last year.

The situation in Russia remains complex. We are experiencing a profound economic crisis. I would like to express a number of my own thoughts about this.

First, no matter how hard last year was, I cannot agree that it was a lost year for Russia when people say that the year was a year of collapse in the economy. Collapse would have been inevitable had we not begun the reforms instead of continuing to hold talks about them. This would have been the one realistic scenario for catastrophe, but we managed to avoid it.

Second, I cannot agree that Russia's economic reforms have proceeded under the worst variant. When we began the reforms there were various programs and there was a huge shortage of courageous people prepared to assume the whole burden of responsibility and begin work of colossal difficulty. In these conditions, debates about which model of reforms to put into practice were irrelevant. There was no opportunity to select a team to do this.

Third, a considerable number of mistakes were made last year. And, I hope, they will now be critically analyzed.

In 1992 Russia encountered many problems which simply did not previously exist here. They are problems concerning the establishment of the market. Nobody—in the government, in the Supreme Soviet, or on the regional level—had experience of solving them. It had to be gained as we went along.

Fourth, the reforms have imposed a high cost. But we must nevertheless bear in mind that this is the cost of reforms, and not revolution, in a multiethnic country crammed full of nuclear weapons. For all the acuteness of contradictions and conflicts, we are managing to survive a gradual, evolutionary march of progress.

Fifth, last year showed that one of the most serious obstacles to economic reforms is the mass of contradictions manifest in the conflict between the legislative and executive branches. And most of all in the upper echelons.

The growing tension in the power sphere throughout last year caused enormous harm, including economic harm. Now it is simply capable of blowing the country apart and wrecking even the best action program.

I have said and I repeat: Any route that will ensure that this difficult problem is solved is acceptable. I am prepared to enter into discussion on this question.

This year must be the year of the economy and not of political battles.

At least two options are now evident. They are a referendum, and new agreements between the branches of power—but, of course, accompanied by firm guarantees of fulfillment and the involvement of the positive potential of republics and other subjects of the Federation.

I deem it essential to carry out parallel preparations, especially as a referendum and an agreement have the same aim—to eliminate conflict in the sphere of state power. To abandon one or the other now would be a big political mistake. This applies to the April referendum.

If today the president, the Supreme Soviet chairman, and the Constitutional Court chairman, all three having gotten together in the evening, do not find agreement, the people must then have their weighty say.

But I hope that such agreement will be found.

Chernomyrdin on Economy's 'Last Line of Defense'

PM1202120193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed account of speech by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at 11 February Kremlin session of Russian Federation Council of Ministers under the general heading "This Must Be the Year of the Economy, Not of Political Battles": "Viktor Chernomyrdin: What Is Needed Is Not Talk But Specific Actions"]

[Text] Throughout 1992, when the country was experiencing profound and serious reforms, the last government was unable to find time to meet with heads of republics, leaders of territories and regions, deputies, politicians, and prominent economists and discuss openly, directly, and honestly a plan of action and its possible consequences. In this connection the head of the Council of Ministers particularly singled out the idea that isolation in general is dangerous for real executive power. Viktor Chernomyrdin began his brief yet substantial speech by analyzing the work results of the country's national economy and the government over the past year. He emphasized that all the difficulties of the past period largely stemmed from the fact that a mechanism of self-destruction was continuing to function. Unfortunately, this mechanism is still functioning today. However much the government renounces the past, we cannot yet rid ourselves of the harmful impact of that mechanism.

It is natural that the government of Ye. Gaydar, which was largely formed hurriedly and hastily, feeling the influence of that mechanism of self-destruction, worked in a slapdash manner, in the hope that a real, strong market engine would be started up. Those hopes were borne out. But the fact remains that the destruction of the economy is continuing. Russia is continuing to experience a profound crisis. During last year alone GDP fell almost 20 percent. There has never been such a thing in Russia's history. Prices increased 26-30 times over. It has to be said clearly that, starting last November, the country has been creeping into a spiral of hyperinflation. This is the last line of defense. We are beginning 1993 in a very difficult economic situation.

The limit has been reached, and it is our last line of defense, V. Chernomyrdin paraphrased the slogan that emerged during the war years. The situation has proved to be even worse than it seemed according to the gloomiest forecasts. But the strategic course of the economic reforms has been correctly determined. If you add to this concerted, nonimpulsive management and joint actions by the government, the Supreme Soviet, and the Central Bank, then you have to believe that positive progress can be made.

State industry must not only be self-regulated but must also, since there is a government, be managed. An efficient finance and credit policy must be implemented in combination with the clearly selected priorities of industrial policy. We must not weaken the role of the state as the owner of the people's vast amount of property. We must not allow a situation in which enterprises are on their own and the state is on its own. That is, the line of the relationship between the state and enterprises must be realistic, exact, verified, and quite clear.

We must clearly define where the production slump must be halted without delay, where production must be built up, and where to prevent the existence of enterprises which are known to benefit neither people nor the national economy and to agree to their bankruptcy. Efficient, specific work is needed. At the same time the existing production slump must not end in a collapse. This makes it necessary to resolve some quite specific tasks.

Among the specific priorities of structural policy Viktor Chernomyrdin named:

1. Providing the country with fuel and energy. Russia is a land of winter, and the question of fuel and the fuel supply is the chief question.

2. Ensuring the activity of the food-producing sectors. Nobody is about to feed Russians cheaply. It is essential to be well aware of this. The premier recalled that during the past year Russia's citizens were fed for three months out of 12 only because of sales of oil, diamonds, and gold. Therefore everything must be done to ensure that the population does not suffer and experience a food shortage.

3. Converting the military industry and, in conformity with this, giving real support to priority areas of fundamental science.

4. Giving the population social support. It is essential to know what and who is indispensable to the country today. Targeted, clearly verified social support for the population is needed. The premier discussed the forms of this support. He dwelt in detail on the forms and methods of direct state regulation of the economy. In particular, he advocated not giving credits without convincing substantiation of a project on the part of those asking for them, and only given commitments to pay off

the debt. In this sense he was harshly critical of the activity of the Ministry of the Economy and the Ministry of Finance, which does not accord with the present stage of development.

What is needed is not talk but real action. We must decide clearly what to tackle at the federal and regional levels of management. The premier put a suggestion to the regions' representatives: Make an application for what you want to get from us. We will give it to you so that you feel yourselves to be masters with full rights.

The economic reforms will take years of specific, practical work.

This tone in Viktor Chernomyrdin's speech gave the president grounds for emphasizing, in his brief concluding speech, that all Russians and the entire world had now heard the head of government's commitment to the idea of reforms in Russia.

Ministers Discuss Economic Problems

LD1102181793 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Report by Sergey Omelchenko on Russian Council of Ministers meeting in Moscow on 11 February; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The problem of economic transformation priorities was the main topic today at the expanded session of the Russian Council of Ministers.

[Begin recording] [Omelchenko] Boris Yeltsin delivered an analysis of the economic and political situation within the country. [passage omitted]

For his part, First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko presented three options for emerging from the economic crisis. The first is minimal inflation, in which a 20-percent slump in production and some 7 million unemployed would be expected by the end of the year. The second is moderate, also with a significant fall in production and 7 percent unemployment. The easiest way, but heavy in consequences, Shumeyko believes, is a sharp rise in prices and, accordingly, in pay. It will be a question of walking along a razor's edge, the first deputy prime minister concluded. On the one hand, social significance has to be attached to the reforms, on the other hand, hyperinflation will have to be avoided.

Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev stressed that the situation is unlikely to change for the better unless responsibility is precisely delegated with regard to the distribution of resources, external economic activities, and other economic spheres.

In this connection, Mikhail Nikolayev, president of the Republic of Sakha, proposed that not only ministries and departments, but also territories should bear responsibility.

Academician Leonid Abalkin, denying the feasibility of the first version of the government's anticrisis program, thinks the crisis can be overcome by channelling investment into priority economic spheres.

It was pointed out in speeches at the session of the Russian Council of Ministers that taxation policy must be even more flexible, otherwise we will forfeit and expend the accumulated potential. [end recording]

Ministers Approve Economic Reform Program

LD1102155293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1413 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—The Russian cabinet today approved the plan for furthering economic reforms in 1993 at its meeting in the Kremlin. President Boris Yel[illegible] who presided over the meeting suggested changes and insisted on including a special section in the plan devoted to regional politics. He told the cabinet to finalise the plans within a week, taking into account criticism and proposals voiced during the discussion.

The government plan consists of 97 points aimed at achieving macro-economic stabilisation, pursuing a tougher credit and monetary policy, curbing inflation and stepping up its social policy.

The meeting, in which government members, leaders of the Supreme Soviet and territorial bodies of executive power took part, lasted more than five hours. Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin spoke in conclusion. He named 4 priorities in the government's structural policy in 1993.

These include the provision of fuel and energy to the national economy, the ensuring of food supplies to the population, the conversion of the military production and selective support for science and technological potential, as well as the social policy, including state support for housing construction, health services, education and culture.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told the meeting that it was important for the cabinet to understand the actual situation in the national economy in order to work out an effective strategy. This was facilitated by the fact that more than 300 people took part in the Kremlin meeting, including government members, parliament leaders, heads of the territorial executive bodies and the leaders of sectoral committees and federal services.

Summarizing the results of the country's economic performance in 1992, Chernomyrdin stressed that the crisis which engulfed the country was a result of action of the self-destruction mechanism laid down by the administration-by-command system. Chernomyrdin said the reform approach opted for by the cabinet was justified as

it focused on introducing elements of the market mechanism one by one aiming at setting market relations in motion on this basis in the entire national economy.

Along with this, Chernomyrdin pointed out that the slump in production in 1992 reached the limit beyond which retreat was impossible.

"The strategy of reforms was chosen correctly but the results might have been better, if the government, the Central Bank and the parliament had coordinated their decision better," Chernomyrdin said.

The prime minister also said the government should not content itself with hopes that economic self-regulation would do the job by itself but should be more active in controlling the process. According to him "an effective credit and financial policy must be supplemented with a selective state structural policy".

Chernomyrdin noted that it was impermissible to weaken state control over state-owned enterprises and favoured the creation of a tougher mechanism for protecting state-owned enterprises from arbitrary privatisation in someone's personal or parochial interests.

Chernomyrdin noted that in 1993, the government would take more resolute measures in the economy and reiterated the need for the cabinet to agree and coordinate its actions with the parliament and the Central Bank of Russia. The Russian people, he said, will judge about the country's leadership and government by their specific practical actions aimed at revitalising the economy, curbing the inflation and maintaining the social sphere at an appropriate level.

Participants in the meeting criticised the Russian Economics Minister, Andrey Nechayev, and Finance Minister Vasiliy Barchuk. Viktor Chernomyrdin said in his speech he agreed with the critical remarks. President Boris Yeltsin said the question about these two ministers was "being considered by the president and the government".

Boris Yeltsin said he was satisfied with today's discussion of the government plan for 1993 and stressed that the discussion made it clear to all people in this country and the world that "Viktor Chernomyrdin in person and the entire government favour reforms".

Shumeyko Stresses Social Protection

PM1202115193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed account of speech by First Deputy Premier Vladimir Shumeyko at the 11 February session of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, under the general heading "This Year Must Be the Year of the Economy and Not of Political Battles. 11 February. Moscow. The Kremlin. Session of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers": "Vladimir Shumeyko: Social Aspect of Reforms Coming to the Forefront"]

[Text] Slump in production and investment activity, breakdown of economic ties between enterprises, collapse of the financial system and loss of control over the credit and money sphere, loss of confidence in the ruble, the country's foreign economic and hard currency bankruptcy, and virtually complete collapse of the management structure in the economy—that was how Russia entered 1992.

In January 1992 the government began work in an extraordinarily complex atmosphere. The main areas of the government's work were the liberalization of prices, privatization, a tough credit and money policy, and the conversion of the defense industry. Despite the Cabinet of Ministers' activity, however, the negative trends were not eliminated. The present situation is characterized by a sharp fall in the population's living standard, and hyperinflation has become a reality. That is precisely why the fate of the reforms will depend to a large extent on today's discussion.

In conditions of increasing crisis phenomena, the government's biggest mistake was the unsystematic allocation of credits and benefits and the lack of cooperation with the Supreme Soviet. Consequently, distortions in the socioeconomic development of the regions had intensified by the end of 1992. The slump in production was greatest in the European part of Russia, reaching 17.5 percent as against 2.5 percent in 1991. The differences in wage levels among different groups of the population increased sharply. The lack of clear cooperation between the government and the regions made it impossible to form a cohesive structure of executive power at all levels.

Inefficient enterprises cause the government great concern. The greatest loss-making sectors are the coal industry and stockraising and around 20 percent of all transport enterprises. However, in the past year wages in the loss-making sectors increased several times over. As a result the volume of nonpayments increased sharply to 3.1 trillion rubles [R] or an increase of 7,700 percent.

A critical point was reached. The government, under pressure from various forces, was forced to increase the issue of credit to R3.7 trillion. As a result the rate of money supply growth increased around 25 percent and the support for inefficient production units gave a boost to inflationary processes.

The experience of 1992 showed: The granting of excessive credits temporarily eased the problem of nonpayments but also sharply slowed down the pace of the structural reorganization of the economy. The continuation of infusions of credit also leads to hyperinflation causing suffering to the least protected strata of the population. Inefficient production cannot be supported any longer!

One of the government's chief mistakes was to rely mainly on the reforms. The social aspect was pushed into the background. Prices rose more than twice as fast as

wages. In the past year prices rose 2,500 percent whereas the population's incomes rose only 900 percent.

Differences in pay between different sectors also increased. The number of people below the poverty line rose sharply. Around one-third of the population has incomes below the subsistence minimum of R4,000 per person.

By the end of the year the official unemployment figure in Russia was 600,000, or more than 1 percent of the work force. Moreover, 70 percent of the unemployed are women.

The situation in the social sphere today is significantly different from last year. The potential for the further implementation of reforms by restricting the social sphere is exhausted. The year 1993 must be the year of transition from passive to active measures for the protection of the population. The social aspect of the reforms is coming to the forefront.

The government's main task for 1993 is to halt the slump in production and strengthen the population's social protection. The number one task for this year is to curb inflation.

The government is proposing three options for the further implementation of reforms in 1993: A rigid budget and credit policy with a calculated increase in the money supply of 7-10 percent; a policy of moderate inflation of 12-15 percent; and a soft openly inflationary policy of 20-25 percent.

The first option is the most preferable although it is also the most difficult. It demands toughness and consistency from the government. The time has come for a concentration of efforts for the social revival of Russia. Russia is on the brink of the abyss.

Commentary Discusses Session's Results

LD1102232293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1441 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] We have already reported that a sitting of the Russian Council of Ministers was held today in Moscow. The results of the past year and also the Government's plans for the current year were examined. Here is our commentator, Valeriy Kiosa, with more details on these events.

[kiosa] In today's report by first vice premier shumeyko, for the first time perhaps we heard a detailed assessment of last year's economic results. From this document it follows that serious mistakes were made by the Government in many key areas. Shumeyko, for example, named inconsistency in the economic blueprint for state construction in Russia, which led to a noticeable distortion of the subsidies and benefits allocated to various regions of Russia, a sharp increase in credit emissions under pressure from different political and other elements, the loss of traditional links with the republics of the Union and Comecon countries, and negligence toward the social base of the reforms.

But no matter how interesting the analysis of the past year was for, let's say, the professionals, what the Government is planning to do now is of course much more important for us. In Shumeyko's words, the Russian Council of Ministers has studied three variants, each of which is based on the growth of money supply and on different rates of this growth. So, the first variant is a strict financial policy, the second can be termed a moderately radical policy that is not quite so strict, and finally the third variant, where the Government does not have any strict policy whatsoever, and we get inflation being sharply aggravated. The Government has therefore announced that it will take the first variant, that is, it will continue the course of strict, financial policy; moreover, it is prepared to be stubborn in pursuing this course.

It is true that Shumeyko called a halt to the fight at the highest level of state—as he himself described it, a condition for the success of this action. What did those present at the sitting think of such a plan? Representatives of the regions, of whom there were very many in The kremlin today, unanimously said that, as before, this program did not have a role or place for Russian regions, so the question again arose on regional policy taking into account the new realities in Russia.

The political aspect was also discussed. The leaders of the regional administrations who spoke did not agree with the idea of the referendum and were also against the continuing attempts to determine relations at the highest level between the legislative and executive powers. This subject once again cropped up today. For example, First Vice Premier Shumeyko thinks that the decision of the Seventh Congress [of People's Deputies] is a direct path to inflation, whereas the Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Voronin, who also spoke today, said that it is only these decisions which need to be fulfilled.

So, if we are to sum up this sitting, we can say the following: The Governments' plans are of course becoming clearer and clearer. But as before a lot of questions still remain. For example, one of them is: How much unanimity is there within the Government itself? Today, for example, Vice Premier Fedorov, as before, said the main concern should be about finances and the rigidity of this financial policy. Premier Chernomyrdin said, however, something rather different: he was in favor of intensifying state regulation and credit support for important industries. However, he stressed that there would not be a repeat of 1992, when credits were given out to everyone according to their needs. Chernomyrdin named very broad priorities—the fuel and energy complex, foodstuffs, conversion, science, and housing, etc. As before, there is the question as to how the Government is intending to provide the social basis of these reforms—put more simply, how it will make us believe that we have to support the Government's actions.

Finally, there is yet another very important question—that of regional policy. In his concluding speech, the Russian president admitted that in 1992 there had been no regional policy. But it still remains unclear whether there is to be one this year, and what will it be? Today, at least, one thing became clear: there will be a special section in the Government's plan, and on the whole, the Government decided to create an editorial commission to summarize the results of today's sitting. Here is perhaps another specific result of this sitting of the Russian Government. Judging by the president's words, we can expect a change in the leadership of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economics. Of course, there is reason to criticize the leaders of these two departments, but on the whole, the issue probably does not lie with them alone. Yes, it they alone are not solely responsible. This perhaps is what we can say right after this sitting ended.

Yeltsin Addresses Anticrime Conference

LD1202122593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1035 GMT 12 Feb 93

["Boris Yeltsin Addresses All-Russia Conference on Problems of the Fight Against Organized Crime and Corruption: Full Text of Speech"; by ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Feb—The all-Russia conference on problems of combating organised crime and corruption opened today in the Kremlin. The conference was addressed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. He said:

It is the first time that we have held such a representative meeting devoted to the problems of crime. And this is justified in the highest measure. Crime has started to become problem number one in Russia. It is taking on such a scale and character that today it represents a tremendous danger to the individual and the state.

In the past year alone, hundreds of thousands of citizens have been victims of murders, thefts and robberies. The overwhelming majority of Russian citizens fear for their safety.

The growth of organized crime is particularly dangerous. Its field of activity includes trading in weapons and narcotics, the theft and smuggling out of the country of raw materials, objects of historical value, antiques and religious objects of the peoples of Russia. Criminal groups have infiltrated themselves into the economy and the banking system.

Organized crime has become a direct threat to Russia's strategic interests and national security.

Specialists consider that over half the criminal groups have corrupt links. Bribes for obtaining licenses and the allocation of quotas, for the granting of credits at privileged rates, for creating special conditions for commercial structures, for acquiring at reduced prices state property which is being privatized, and many other things—all this is the reality of our life.

The specialists also consider that about 40 percent of businessmen and two-thirds of commercial structures are involved in corrupt relationships. Corruption in the organs of power and administration are literally eating away the body of the Russian state from top to bottom. This allows the "laundering," as it is called, of the many millions and even thousands of millions of profit obtained from criminal activity.

The criminal milieu is behaving provocatively and is strutting about in its might and impunity. It is becoming more and more insolent and aggressive. Last year, the number of crimes involving the use of weapons doubled.

There is an increase in the number of acts of terrorism, both those that are purely criminal and those that are political. So the picture is unsightly and frightening in its nature and consequences. Crime is ruining the economy, interfering with politics, undermining public morals and endangering human lives. Russian citizens are increasingly often pondering the legitimate question—is the state capable of defending society against criminal attempts? We have the right to give only one answer—yes! We can and must reverse the existing tendency. Otherwise all this will result in a collapse of Russia's moral foundations while the people will lose any trust they have in state authorities.

Leaders of law enforcement bodies, leaders of republics, krays, oblasts and all ministries and departments are gathered in this hall. What we have to do is to point out honestly and self-critically who is not doing as much as they should and in what areas, and to assess in a fundamental way the situation that has arisen and how practically to wage a struggle against the social evil. The main thing is to define truly effective ways and means to eradicate it.

I believe that it is clear to everyone today that the deep-lying cause of the outbreak of crime is rooted in the political and economic instability of Russian society, which is going through a most difficult period of transition.

The fight against crime cannot and should not be carried out by the law-enforcement bodies alone. Today this is a most important task of all bodies of state power without exception, of the whole of society. It has to be pointed out how vigorously and energetically they have begun this operation in Moscow. The departmental approach and the desire to restrict oneself to fulfilling a narrow range of tasks is unacceptable today. Success is possible if there is coordination in tackling the crime problem and Russia's state policy as a whole.

Profound socioeconomic and political changes are happening in the country, and its geopolitical situation and communications with the outside world have altered, too. The country is changing rapidly.

All this needs to be taken into consideration in order to elaborate a truly systematic vision of the crime problem and to devise an integrated approach to solving it.

The following areas should be coordinated in it, first and foremost:

1. improving the Russian state's legal system;

2. strengthening law enforcement bodies;

3. eradicating the social basis of crime and improving society's moral health;

4. eliminating the economic foundation of crimes which in present-day conditions are brought about by the underdevelopment of market relations and the weakness of Russian democratic statehood.

A real demarcation of executive and legislative authorities and of local and federal administration bodies is at its initial stage in Russia. The process is developing extremely painfully and is being accompanied by conflicts.

It is in this process precisely that the main contradiction of the transitional period—between the old and the new, the presidential form and soviet power—manifests itself. In real life this takes the form of each authority adopting decisions of its own on practically every issue, and sometimes these decisions do not agree with each other or even are politically opposite.

There should be strict discipline from top to bottom, and no one should bear a grudge against these demands. For example, we know of many conflicts with regard to privatization. Several owners obtain decisions in their favor from various bodies with regard to one and the same property. The Altay kray stands out in particular, where there have been different levels of bribes. It reaches the point where oblast soviets abolish the laws, decrees and decisions of the Russian state bodies.

Such confusion is literally paralyzing the work of the law enforcement bodies. Sometimes they do not know whose rights to protect, or who is the victim and who is the offender.

It is high time to sort out what is taking place at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Security and the Defense Ministry. In particular, entire ammunition dumps are being stolen from the Defense Ministry, and no one says a thing. This is going beyond the limit. Both citizens and the law enforcement bodies themselves are used to acting on their own volition, relying only on their strength.

In such a situation both a real fight against crime and work in general for stabilizing the situation in society and the economy are impossible. It is sheer madness to continue political games in such a situation.

The power crisis must be settled at all costs. As I have already said, I see two ways of achieving this—through a referendum or by concluding a constitutional agreement with guarantees on its fulfillment by all branches of power.

As you know, at yesterday's meeting with the chairman of the Supreme Soviet and the chairman of the Constitutional Court, agreement was reached to hold regular consultations, and the next meeting will be held on Tuesday.

Esteemed participants in the working conference. Russia is incurring huge losses from unlawful operations aimed against the very thing which constitutes our national property—our strategic resources of raw materials. The squandering of Russia's national wealth, which became undisguized by the end of the eighties, has led to vast inertia today. It has to be admitted that over the years we have neglected this whole area. There has been a virtual absence of any legal mechanism or executive levers of influence to control the turnover of strategic and financial resources. Corrupted structures are obtaining access to dispose of enormous state resources for their own mercenary interests. Moreover, the Law on State Service, as before, unfortunately, lies idle in the Supreme Soviet.

To preserve and strengthen such a situation with all one's might—that is the aim pursued by the mafiosi elements. They can achieve this by one means only—by taking under their control the entire structure of distribution of material and financial resources of the state.

The so-called mafia "fathers" understand extremely well that as economic reform develops and distribution functions pass from the state to owners of property, so the objective conditions for illegal operations disappear, at least at the present scale.

Reform does not suit the corrupted structures—it deprives them of sources for existence. Not one sensible person will sell his own raw materials or his own output under an unprofitable contract just because he personally will receive a bribe. Similar phenomena can be clearly seen also in the finance and credit sphere.

Currency machinations based on fluctuations in the market rate of the ruble are widespread. What is more, deliberate action is being taken to lower it artificially. As a result, we are losing thousands of millions of dollars.

Gross errors in the activities of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Central Bank of Russia and the Ministry of Finances have provided a breeding ground for corruption. According to official figures from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, in January-September 1992 alone—I read from the official report: "The unexplained discrepancy between the foreign trade figures and actual payments was $2 billion." Meanwhile we hunt for pickpockets.

I would like to know which Western banks are benefiting from our money, and who, possibly even within the government, is profiting from this. The Procuracy and

the Ministry of Internal Affairs are afraid to aim so high and to try to resolve what is taking place. Now we are going to help them. I am confident that it is impossible to fight corruption efficiently in the absence of a mechanism of interdepartamental coordination. Such a mechanism was created recently. It is the Security Council's interdepartmental commission for combating crime, headed by A.V. Rutskoy. We reckon on its efficient work. It can do everything, it can find anyone who steals or takes bribes. We will get down to business, not a political game or fictitious reports. We need concrete, solved cases and show trials. There will be threats and blackmail, but nevertheless we have to sort things out in Moscow.

But the creation of the commission is not enough to solve the problem once and for all time. To create a clear-cut mechanism for comparing all the decisions which are being adopted in both the political and economic spheres with Russia's key interests has become an obvious necessity.

There are more specific manifestations of this problem, too. I have signed a decree on the mandatory criminological examination of the decisions adopted by the executive authorities. Any decision should be subjected to such examination. Such examination of the decisions adopted by the Supreme Soviet and local soviets is no less important. This problem should be solved as soon as possible.

There have been justified complaints about our legislators. Russian legislation is catastrophically lagging behind today's realities. But I have to rebuke the law-enforcement bodies, too. They fail to make full use of the right to legislative initiative. It is they who must task specialists with preparing the necessary draft laws.

I think that it is essential to organize a drafting commission here at the conference. It could generalize all your proposals on the legislation so as to later forward a document to the Supreme Soviet. It would undertake to generalize all proposals expressed by you regarding the fight against crime. For my part, I have already forwarded to the Supreme Soviet a draft blueprint for a state policy on controlling drugs in the Russian Federation.

I propose that parliament should adopt a special decision "On the involvement of units, subunits and other formations of the armed forces in order to ensure law and order and fight crime." Such work has already begun in Moscow.

The crime situation in Russia has been compounded by the cataclysms of recent times. The disintegration of the former Union and the formerly single legal space, while transparent borders are retained, has created a particularly "merciful" regime for criminal elements.

The explosion of nationalist patriotic extremism has led to wars flaring up close to Russia's borders. Neither has social stability been aided by the difficulties of transition to the market, the underdevelopment of economic relations, misjudgements in state policy on tax liability and price regulation, unemployment, which, albeit slowly, is growing, forced migration from the "hot spots," and many other factors. But we cannot allow the growth in crime to be blamed solely on objective reasons, and say that this is an inevitable evil.

Today we are raising the question of partial reorganization of our law enforcement system. I am ready to examine questions if you consider it appropriate. It is important that they should be based on the interests of the affair at hand rather than on departmental ambitions. I support the strengthening of law and order enforcement bodies, reinforcing their material resources and broadening the legal basis of their activity. There is a lot of potential for doing this. First this means reducing the strength of the Army and converting the defense industry.

In actual fact the Army and the militia carry out one and the same function—the protection of citizens and the state. Without a loss in the defense of the country the state can hand over to the militia a section of cadres and production capacities that worked for the Army.

Equipping our law enforcement bodies must become one of the directions of conversion. I think that the question of the social protection of employees in law enforcement bodies is so far being resolved in an unsatisfactory manner. It boils down to just some increase in pay and a monetary allowance. It should be a question of an entire system of social privileges and guarantees. And not only for employees in bodies that maintain law and order, but also for members of their families.

The time has come, in terms of legislature, to increase the responsibility of citizens that encroach upon the lives and dignity of your colleagues.

And finally. Recently the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has been subjected to severe criticism, including criticism by the president. There will be more today. And not only of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. By force of habit, there is already talk of the future resignation of Minister V.F. Yerin. I want to announce that there is no basis for any such suggestion. We have to get used to the fact that critical comments are not testimony of no confidence. Let us avoid firing and sentencing people.

Do not let this fact obscure our work. I would like to wish success to the conference. It is very important that as a result of it we all should enjoy the opportunity to act more efficiently in our struggle against one of the most dangerous evils in modern Russia—crime. Our citizens and your colleagues expect this. And we are obliged to live up to their expectations!

Rutskoy in Charge of Fight Against Crime

OW1102195093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1914 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday [11 February] named Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy his official representative at the Supreme Soviet's consideration of the draft of a resolution "On the Use of Units, Divisions, and Other Formations of Russian Federation Armed Forces To Ensure Law and Order in the Fight Against Crime." This was announced by the president's press service.

Rutskoy's Theses on Crime-Fighting Measures

Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy is going to make a speech at a national conference on Friday February 12 in Moscow on measures to fight crime in which, according to trustworthy sources, he will say that the scale of crime in Russia "poses a threat to the existence of the state and its institutions. Therefore fighting crime should become part of a general strategy for the survival of the state, one of the tasks of national significance."

In Rutskoy's view, a national program is necessary for Russia's revival. Clearly formulated aims should be set and ways indicated to attain them. If necessary, the country's political system should be changed too.

Russia's national interests, both on its own territory and abroad, should also be clearly formulated. Crime-fighting measures, Rutskoy is convinced, should be depoliticized and strictly in line with the law. At the same time, they should be "as simple and general in character as to be undersandable to ordinary citizrens, who are waiting for them."

Paper Publishes Crime Conference Documents, Data

MK1202092593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Feb 93 p1

[Yevgeniy Krasnikov report: "Russian Authorities Intend Yet Another Assault on Crime. The Only Thing Is How and With What Forces and Resources"]

[Excerpts] An all-Russia conference on combating crime, to which 970 people representing various legal and law-enforcement organizations have been invited, opens in the Kremlin today. [passage omitted]

The Kremlin conference will be closed to journalists. But NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has succeeded in obtaining the collection of documents "Crime—The Threat to Russia" prepared on the personal instructions of Aleksandr Rutskoy by the RAU Corporation (whose head is Aleksey Podberezkin, an adviser to the vice president). These materials have now been distributed to the conference participants. Each copy is individually numbered and stamped "distribution only to names on list." The most interesting extracts from the collection are cited below.

From the Preface, Written by Vice President A.V. Rutskoy

The present scale of crime inside the former USSR has already been proving in recent years to be a threat to the existence of the Russian state and its institutions and, moreover, of the people themselves. This is why there is a need for a program for the revival of the Russian state incorporating immediate and highly effective measures in the political, economic, ideological, and other fields, where combating crime forms part of a general strategy for the survival of the state and constitutes a nationwide task.

Statistics

Total number of criminal cases investigated in 1992—960,127. Total number of cases still incomplete on 1 January 1993—442,866. Total number of people arrested—47,203. Total number of unsolved crimes—1,380,526 (up 122.8 percent on 1989). Total number of all crimes—2,760,652 (up 70.5 percent on 1989).

Economic Crime

The total revenue of the "shadow" economy can be estimated at 110 billion rubles [R] in 1991 and—taking account of increased prices and new socioeconomic conditions—R2-2.5 trillion in 1992.

Studies showed substantial regional differences in the extent of the black market on the territory of the former USSR. Thus, the proportion of consumer spending accounted for by the black market in 1991 totaled 3-5 percent in the Baltics, 10 percent in Belarus, 15 percent in Russia, 20 percent in Ukraine, 25 percent in Central Asia and Kazakhstan, and 40 percent in the Transcaucasus.

The estimates cited here make it possible to conclude that the "shadow" economy is growing steadily against a backdrop of continuing general economic decline.

Combating Organized Crime

More than 4,000 organized criminal groups were uncovered in Russia in 1992, including over 1,000 with international and interregional links. One group in every four enjoys the protection of corrupt officials in various organizations. According to expert assessments, up to 40 percent of entrepreneurs and two-thirds of commercial organizations are involved in such relationships. In 1992 criminal proceedings were taken against approximately 3,000 participants in organized criminal groups, and criminal files were opened on more than 1,500 corrupt officials. More than 4,500 firearms, 3 tonnes of drugs, and R3 billion were confiscated from the criminals.

Prospects

We should expect a further spread of corruption, extortion, tax evasion, violations of antialcohol legislation, fake businesses, fake bankruptcies, and other illegal activity in the economic sphere. Racketeering, abductions, and the use of violence and terror tactics by criminal organizations will increase. Growth in the drugs business is inevitable.

Referendum Issues

Shumeyko Supports Referendum, Heads Commission

LD1202110193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1019 GMT 12 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow February 12 TASS—The government commission on holding the referendum will prepare it, unless the president issues some other instructions, First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko, who is heading the commission, told journalists today.

In his opinion, the referendum is necessary, because it is the only way to settle the conflict between the executive and legislative branches of authority. In addition, technically it is very difficult to cancel the referendum, because the decision to hold it was made by the congress in a package with other measures.

Responding to the question about his attitude to the idea of a round-table conference, Shumeyko said that he welcomed any attempt to reach agreement. At the same time, he believes the principle under which participants in the round-table conference were selected was not quite just, because not all the public forces were represented there the way they should.

Shumeyko stressed that lack of harmony in society creates a threat for the reform and urged to spare no effort for reaching that harmony.

Says Referendum Necessary

OW1102194793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1914 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko believes that it is necessary to conduct referendum under present situation. At a press conference on Thursday [11 February] in Moscow, he expressed the opinion that only one issue should be submitted to nationwide voting, namely, "Whom would you commit the implementation of reforms: to the president or to the deputies corps?" Shumeyko also pointed out that if the government completely fulfills the resolution of the 7th Congress of People's Deputies "On the Process of Economic Reform," then 10 trillion rubles should additionally be allocated to Russia's national economy. The First Vice Premier is convinced that contradictions between the demands of the Congress in the field of economy and the course of the Cabinet aimed at tough credit-fiscal policy can be solved by means of a referendum.

Procurator General Opposes Referendum

OW1102170293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1548 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Procurator-General Valentin Stepankov announced that he shared Chairman of the Constitutional Court Valeriy Zorkin's opinion that referendum did not fit the current sociopolitical situation. "I would not like to force the referendum on the country," he said during a press conference on Thursday [11 February].

Asked by INTERFAX, he said there is no unanimous support for the referendum in Russia's regions.

He also stated that in 1992, prosecutors held 85,000 inspections. As a result, legal action was started against about 446,000 officials, most of them executives of various levels. Last year, the Procurator-General's Office handled more than 3 million criminal cases.

To quote Stepankov, the Procurator-General's Office issued 449 monitoring permits. The Interior Ministry issued two times more permits of this kind," he said. [no opening quotation marks as received]

Conference Discusses Preparations for Referendum

PM1102162393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Feb 93 First Edition p 2

[Parliamentary observer Aleksandr Linkov report: "There Is No Legal Basis"]

[Text] A scientific-practical conference on the methodology and methods of the preparation for, and holding of, referendums has opened in the Russian Federation Parliamentary Center. Its participants—Russian people's deputies, regional leaders of representative organs of power, and members of electoral commissions—were instructed to discuss a number of problems which have come to light in connection with the plebiscite in April. There is negligible experience of holding these in our country. There is virtually no legal basis for this. The existing and currently valid Law "On the Referendum in the RSFSR" was prepared for a one-time measure—the establishment of the post of president in Russia. And now, it is clearly not relevant to the real situation in the country. That was what N. Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and I. Bezrukov, deputy chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Legislation, dwelt on in particular in their speeches.

Incidentally, as part of the package of proposed documents, the participants in the conference also received the draft law on introducing amendments and addenda

to the RSFSR Law "On the Referendum in the RSFSR." It is planned that it will be submitted for examination by the parliament in the next few days.

Which questions should be included in the questionnaire? According to N. Ryabov and I. Bezrukov, what is needed first and foremost is clarity and precision in the wording, so that people can give simple answers: either "yes" or "no." All attempts to offer alternative questions would lead nowhere, that is, the failure of the referendum. Worse, its very idea would be fundamentally undermined.

The deputy parliamentary speaker expressed his attitude to the possibility of canceling the referendum fairly cautiously, believing that in that case deep analysis of the possible consequences would be needed. The main thing is not to act on the spur of the moment.

Meanwhile, the mechanism for the April referendum has already started working. As V. Kazakov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, has reported, 89 districts and 100,000 polling places have been formed. A total of 106 million people have the right to vote. But as for whether they will appear 11 April to express their opinion on the questions asked, V. Kazakov is not sure. When it held elections of people's deputies to replace those leaving, the Central Electoral Commission ran up against great difficulties last year. In the end, because of the passivity of the electorate, the elections did not take place in 8 districts out of 11. At the same time, V. Kazakov warned that if the definitive referendum questions are not published 11 March, then the Central Electoral Commission has the right to postpone it. The law requires this.

The regional sociopolitical situation is by no means of the best. Even not long ago, Belgorod Oblast was one of the economically strong oblasts in Russia. Now it has been thrown decades backwards. That is what V. Kudryavtsev, deputy chairman of the oblast soviet, believes. And people are not in the mood for a referendum today. There is a serious danger that it will fail.

The attitude to the plebiscite is no better in Saratov Oblast. Oblast Soviet Deputy Chairman V. Ukhanin said at the conference that one of their cities has adopted a statement on the abolition of the institution of the presidency because it has not justified its existence. There is an extremely negative approach to the referendum in the army. Literally a few days ago, he happened ot meet with officers in a military school. They stated clearly: Two years ago, we all voted in favor of the USSR. Where is this state now? The people have been deceived long enough....

Filatov Addresses Democratic Parties' Conference

PM1202093193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Feb 93 p 1

[S. Stremidlovskiy report: "Democrats Advocate New Elections. But Only for Khasbulatov"]

[Text] On the initiative of the "Democratic Russia" movement, hundreds of delegates from all over Russia gathered in the Moscow City Hall building for an all-Russian conference of democratic parties to elaborate a unified position regarding the April referendum.

Speaker Sergey Filatov, leader of the Russian Federation president's administration, dotted all the i's and crossed all the t's. The president maintains his positions on the referendum; what is of the greatest importance to him is the power problem: What kind of Russian republic there will be—a parliamentary or presidential republic.

The question of who will adopt a new constitution was recognized as important. In Filatov's opinion, this must be done by a Constituent Assembly. Answering KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent's question as to how it would be formed, Filatov said: "The people elected to the Constituent Assembly must be disinterested persons. They will all sign an undertaking not to participate in state service. But as to how they will be elected—according to party lists or to territories—we have not yet decided."

As regards the Congress of People's Deputies, the leader of the president's administration, as a man who has had dealings with the representative branch, believes that Congresses of People's Deputies, especially the last one, took place in a scandalous atmosphere: "If the scandalmongers cannot be stopped at the Congress, the people must do this in a referendum."

The conference participants angrily condemned people's deputies and Ruslan Khasbulatov in particular ("We will somehow get along without you in Rus," a banner in the hall proclaimed) for calling for the referendum's cancellation and demanding early elections in all branches of power. Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin, who advocates the referendum's cancellation, also caught it from the democrats. Father Gleb Yakunin reported that "the Constitutional Court gave birth to the Congress and the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. Defective genes have been passed on to the child." Therefore Zorkin has taken a "very strange and doubtful position."

In the end the conference of democratic parties agreed to show a united front in the April referendum, saying a threatening "no" to attempts to convene an extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies, and to begin a campaign for the dismissal of Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov.

The president was advised not to adopt a new constitution for the time being but to elaborate his own version of basic provisions and use them as constitutional provisions in the transitional period.

Other Issues

Agriculture Minister Urges Larger Credits

LD1102163493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun spoke at the extended sitting of the Russian Government today. He noted that agriculture could not manage today without large credits. Khlystun also called attention to the fact that wages in agriculture are about 6,000 rubles per month. This makes them the lowest in the national economy.

Skokov Extends Influence to Foreign Affairs

MK1102140393 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 7, 14 Feb 93 (Signed to Press 9 Feb 93) p 10

[Vladimir Orlov article: "Yuriy Skokov—Russia's Chief Diplomat"]

[Text] There is one more body in the Kremlin. The apparatus of the Security Council's Interdepartmental Foreign Policy Commission has been set up. The commission itself has held its organizational session.

Yeltsin's Edict No. 1571 on the formation of the Interdepartmental Foreign Policy Commission was signed back on 16 December last year. At the time, a single fact attracted attention: Yuriy Skokov was appointed chairman. And he kept three other key posts: secretary and permanent member of the Security Council; head of the presidential Council of Heads of Republics apparatus; and head of the higher certification commission for the selection of candidates for leadership posts at the Defense and Security Ministries.

Recent documents clearly illustrate the quiet advance of the number two in the Russian hierarchy. Among them is the statute on the Interdepartmental Foreign Policy Commission, drafted by the Security Council apparatus under Skokov's personal guidance, and also Yeltsin's directive (No. 50 of 19 January this year) "On Priority Measures To Support the Activity of the Interdepartmental Foreign Policy Commission," in which the president established the composition, structure, and main tasks of the new body. It is curious that the president's press service, which is authorized to provide information on the Security Council's activity, received these documents considerably later than the date they were signed.

Composition. Skokov's subordinates are: Andrey Kozyrev; Pavel Grachev; Viktor Barannikov; Viktor Yerin; Sergey Glazyev; Yevgeniy Primakov; Justice Minister Nikolay Fedorov; Vladimir Mashchits, chairman of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation with the Commonwealth Members; Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff; and Yuliy Vorontsov, Russian representative to the United Nations and adviser to the president. "Representatives of the Supreme Soviet Committees on Defense and Security and on International Affairs" may also ("by agreement") become members of the commission.

Thus Skokov holds in his hands power over not only all those who formulate foreign policy, but also all the "power ministries." And the fact that the ministers of internal affairs and justice are included on this list, when they appear to have only a very indirect connection with the commission's tasks, testifies to the subordination of the entire group of "political" ministries and departments to Skokov.

Let me remind you that the "political group" (the Foreign Ministry, Security Ministry, Internal Affairs Ministry, Defense Ministry, Justice Ministry, Foreign Intelligence Service, Committee on State Reserves) has traditionally been run not by one of the vice premiers, but by the president personally, with the participation of the prime minister. Now the leaders of all these departments (with the exception of the Committee on State Reserves) are obliged to turn up at least once a month for sessions chaired by Skokov. He receives, de facto, an intermediate status between the premier and the president.

Tasks. "The commission's activity extends to the entire foreign policy sphere, including relations with the CIS countries." The Interdepartmental Foreign Policy Commission analyzes "the state of and trends in the development of international relations," identifies "potential and real threats to Russia's security," makes predictions relating to "the emergence of crisis situations on a world or regional scale, and plans actions to prevent or localize them."

All military-political decisions (arms limitation and nonproliferation, contacts with the former Soviet republics in the security sphere, the weapons trade, conversion) will henceforth go through the Interdepartmental Foreign Policy Commission. The commission takes under its supervision "long-term bilateral relations" with countries and international organizations, major foreign trade steps, and the negotiations process. That is to say, the task of preparing all the main foreign policy acts has shifted from Smolensk Square [Foreign Ministry] to the Kremlin. Moreover, the Interdepartmental Foreign Policy Commission is entitled to make recommendations for "improving" and "reshaping" the Foreign Ministry's line.

But most important of all is this: The commission provides Yeltsin with information for his reports and "drafts the president's decisions on foreign policy questions."

Resources. The main emphasis is not on the Interdepartmental Foreign Policy Commission's working apparatus (10 people), but on permanent and ad hoc working parties and expert groups, and also on scientific analysis work by institutes and individual specialists "to order." In this last case, contracts will be concluded, and the

president has instructed that 100,000 rubles a month, "index-linked," be allocated to pay for them.

The creation of the Interdepartmental Foreign Policy Commission is entirely justified both legally and politically. There is indeed a need for a permanent body to coordinate the actions of various ministries and departments, as well as the branches of power, in the international arena. The endless inconsistencies in Russia's foreign policy are causing irritation among foreign diplomats. Moreover, the creation of the Interdepartmental Foreign Policy Commission took into account the experience of analogous foreign structures. Yuriy Petrov, who worked with Skokov at one time on the idea of the Interdepartmental Foreign Policy Commission, told me how carefully the experience of the U.S. National Security Council was studied.

However, the Interdepartmental Foreign Policy Commission's functions are on a breathtaking scale. Whereas, back in May, Andrey Kozyrev simply pulled a face when the Security Council secretary called him via the scrambler, and in August he vied with him, not without success, for the president's ear, today the picture is obviously not to the foreign minister's advantage.

Skokov's method of quietly extending his influence to new spheres is so far working flawlessly. Another trump card he holds is the votes of 637 deputies in a "free" vote at the last Congress. The lawmakers gave Skokov due credit for unequivocally dissociating himself from Yeltsin's appeal ("I am not a supporter of any extreme measures"). Admittedly this popularity of his among the deputies got on the president's nerves.

Skokov also still feels very confident at sessions of the Security Council proper. He has the right to a vote. Today only Yeltsin, Rutskoy, and Chernomyrdin have that right (Filatov lost it when he was transferred to the president's administration). Kozyrev himself has only a consultative voice, which carries no weight when it comes to the adoption of either foreign policy or other decisions. Could this be why the president has not convened the Security Council for quite a long time?

Group Warns of Communist Plot To Take Over Army

MK1202071093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 10

[Unattributed report: "Democratic Reforms Movement Conference. Radical Democrats Warn of a Conspiracy"]

[Text] Leaders of the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms and the Shchit [Shield] Servicemen's Union gave a joint press conference on 10 February at which they pointed to the growing communist threat in the armed forces. They said that democratically minded officers are being persecuted: 30,000 of them were discharged from the armed forces last year.

Sergey Moskovchenko, a Shchit spokesman, also warned that "the communists have started forming underground military committees that could take over control of the army at any moment." Leaders of the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms at the press conference accused Russian deputies of not fulfilling their duty to the nation and the army, and of not implementing the much-needed army reform. They thought that Russia's only salvation lay in speedily convening a constituent assembly that would approve a new constitution and ensure that all the necessary laws are passed in order to "foil the communist conspiracy."

Economic Freedom Party Criticizes Privatization Program

MK1202071693 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 1

[S. Kukhianidze report: "What Is Borovoy Afraid Of?""]

[Text] Konstantin Borovoy, Economic Freedom Party [EFP] cochairman, said during his one-hour press conference on 10 February at the head office of the Russian Commodities and Raw Materials Exchange (RCRME): "We are terrified by what is going on at the moment."

What he is afraid of is the way privatization is proceeding in Russia. According to Borovoy, this much-advertised program "has degenerated into a risky adventure" that could call into question the very course of reform, the prospects of overcoming the crisis, and the process of restructuring.

Borovoy stressed that a mistake was made at the very beginning. Issuing vouchers—securities that were not backed up by anything, that were just pieces of paper—amounted to a crime, Borovoy said. He added that Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property, had turned a cold shoulder to all attempts by the RCRME and the EFP to assist the government in performing this task.

Can the situation be corrected now? Konstantin Borovoy announced at least that he was setting up his own private voucher investment fund that he believes would end up by accumulating the controlling block of vouchers. After that, he said, the fund would be able to "demand the property" from the government. Setting up the fund, he added, was "a political step."

As for the referendum, Konstantin Borovoy said that the EFP supported the idea of holding a referendum on the key provisions of the new Constitution and "believes it necessary to make the referendum a milestone on the road leading to a stable system of power."

Describing the recent meeting of top economists in Davos, Konstantin Borovoy said that "we were upset" by Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin's speech there. So were Western businessmen. Their disenchantment, he said, was caused by Chernomyrdin's call to the West to

make haste and come to Russia, or else it would arrive too late. The West is already tired of hearing this from Moscow.

Borovoy also said that Russian entrepreneurs who attended the Davos meeting gave a small banquet at their own expense that made Western businessmen raise their eyebrows. They saw once again that the Russian business community has already turned into a considerable force.

Grachev Said 'Lying' to Yeltsin on State of Army

MK1102120093 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 4

[Report by Tamara Merkulova, member of the Russian Journalists' Union: "General Grachev Versus ARMIYA ROSSII"]

[Text] As these events developed I had an almost physical sense of the cold, dank air of the totalitarian past wafting over me. And also, I clearly understood that a return to the violation of human rights is possible. Admittedly only—as yet—in the Army, where it is the minister himself, General Grachev, versus ARMIYA ROSSII.

Our country's first independent military newspaper, ARMIYA ROSSII, was conceived as a mirror held up to the reforms in the armed forces, primarily from the viewpoint of the social, legal, and professional protection of soldiers and officers. Lieutenant Colonel Aleksandr Zhilin, chief editor of the weekly, which was founded by the Committee for Social Provision for Servicemen, succeeded in finding a kind of subject matter that quickly won ARMIYA ROSSII a readership.

This newspaper stands out favorably from the military departmental publications by virtue of the absence of attempts to ingratiate itself with the Army bosses. Moreover, the weekly has joined energetically in the struggle against tyrannical actions by the top military administration. It has published several exposes showing convincingly how the defense minister's orders violate the Russian Federation Constitution and legislation.

Sober-minded officers came to see the weekly as their very own newspaper in spirit and perceptions. The editorial office began to receive torrents of letters in which officers say more or less the same thing: "Keep it up, guys! We would like to subscribe to ARMIYA ROSSII immediately."

The Defense Ministry leadership should have realized that ARMIYA ROSSII is a kind of valve letting off steam from the "Army cauldron." More and more people believe that reforms in the Army have been a complete failure. The new minister, seeking to control the highly complex military social and political mechanism with stern and often unlawful orders, only accelerated the demoralization of the Army.

This is what officers of the Defense Ministry central apparatus told me. According to, for instance, Colonels Vitaliy S., Aleksandr I., Aleksandr V., and Sergey A. (at their request, I have not given their surnames, but I can provide the editorial office with tape recordings of my interviews), the first issues of ARMIYA ROSSII caused a real commotion at the Russian "Pentagon" on the Arbat.

"One real bombshell, for instance, was the article 'Reprisals in the Spirit of the Inquisition,' which described how, in Armenia, gunmen executed six Russian assault troopers who had defended their antiaircraft guns to the death," Col. Aleksandr V. told me. "Those experts in sophistry at Grachev's press service had at the time issued false information to the effect that these guys were killed in crossfire, accidentally, so to speak. In fact they were executed in the central square in Leninakan. Moreover, the antiaircraft guns which they defended at the cost of their own lives ware handed over secretly to the Armenian side by Grachev a few days later."

"Do you know why Grachev is so scared of an independent military newspaper?" Col. Vitaliy S. imparted his thoughts. "Because he is constantly lying to the president and parliament, claiming that the situation in the Army is stabilizing. I have seen his reports. Ninety-five percent of it is fiction, everything is embellished and toned down. ARMIYA ROSSII tells the honest truth. That truth is what the Defense Ministry leaders are afraid of. I recently returned from a mission to some of the line units. If you could only see what's going on there! The Army is on the verge of a social and political explosion. The prestige of the ministry and his deputies, who deal mercilessly with officers who annoy them (typically, they don't discharge the drunkards and idlers, but intelligent officers who criticize the real situation in the Army), has sunk below zero. Even I, a colonel on the General Staff, have no opportunity openly to express my opinion, and I am forced to ask you not to give my surname. I am convinced that the activity of General Grachev and his deputy General Mironov is downright criminal, because these impetuous bosses are destroying what remains of the officers' faith in democratic changes, in the president, and in parliament, thereby turning the armed forces against the country's political authorities.

"This creates the threat of a disaster on a scale that is hard even to imagine. And that is why the minister generals fell with such hatred upon ARMIYA ROSSII's chief editor Col. Zhilin and took reprisals against him. But this guy is still fighting. The main thing is, let's hope they don't physically eliminate Zhilin...."

[Merkulova] "?!"

[Vitaliy S.] "I'm not exaggerating. The plundering of the Army by top officials is measured in millions of dollars and Deutsche marks, which are transferred to foreign banks, to personal accounts or front men. When a threat

to such vast resources arises, a man's life is seen in a different light... The 'mafiosi with trouser stripes' will stop at nothing."

...On 8 December last year Lt. Col. A. Zhilin was discharged from the ranks of the armed forces under a personal (secret) directive from Gen. Grachev, under Article 59, point "d," "for conduct unbecoming an officer." This article governs the discharge of officers who have committed criminal offenses. He was discharged in a vile, secret, and underhand manner. The sentence was carried out by that nice, charming "adherent of democracy" Colonel General of Aviation P. Deynekin, who signed the shameful order. Admittedly he explained that he was acting on the personal instructions of the minister.

Aleksandr Zhilin learned about his discharge by chance just before the new year, when he took to the personnel directorate a report written by his immediate superior recommending early promotion to colonel. The personnel people tipped him off about what had happened. They refused to give him a full copy of the discharge order because, as it transpired, it was classified. The reasons for the discharge were not given.

Indeed, what reasons could be advanced? The personnel file on Lt. Col. A. Zhilin says: "He is distinguished by devotion to his job. Exceptionally industrious. Principled. Conformism is absolutely alien to him... A supremely upright officer..."

Translated into military language, as Gen. Grachev obviously realizes, this means: He is not needed by, and is dangerous to, the armed forces, because of what he knows and his rectitude. The editorial collective has stood up for its chief editor, appealing for assistance from the president's apparatus, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, the Constitutional Court, and the military prosecutor's office. As yet there has been no response from any of them.

I would like the fee for this item to go toward supporting the newspaper ARMIYA ROSSII at 4, Zubovskiy Boulevard, Moscow.

Poll Shows 73% Regret Not Storming White House

MK1102120193 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 2

[Lev Lin report: "Plus Officer Underground"]

[Text] The dissatisfaction at the situation in the Russian Army has reached such a pitch among servicemen that underground officer committees opposed to the Defense Ministry leadership are already operational in some places. This, in particular, was stated at a press conference held yesterday by the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms and Armed Forces social organizations. Russian people's deputy Anatoliy Alekseyev told journalists that the Seventh Congress' examination of the unfavorable situation in the Army resulted in virtually nothing. The military have a terse description for the decision adopted there: mindless and heartless. Corruption is rife among the Army top brass. Recently the Supreme Soviet Presidium even created a special commission to investigate instances of military chiefs abusing their position for mercenary ends.

There was a menacing ring to ARMIYA ROSSII editor A. Zhilin's announcement that a poll of 1,000 Moscow Military District officers conducted by the editorial office showed that 73 percent of those polled consider they were crazy to decide against [zrya ne poshli na] storming the White House in August 1991. This is how the officer corps is expressing its dissatisfaction with the policy of Defense Minister P. Grachev and the stance of Russian President B. Yeltsin and the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, who are not obstructing this policy.

Yeltsin Urges Regions To Support Discharged Servicemen

LD1202064793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0400 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Speaking at the government meeting, Boris Yeltsin called attention to one of the most important tasks of the present year—reducing the personnel of the Russian Armed Forces from 3.5 million to 1.5 million persons. The president stressed that it is necessary to find work for the servicemen involved in the reductions, including 700,000 officers. He called on all regions of Russia to allocate full resources for the social resettlement of servicemen and members of their families.

Arms Exports May Reach $3.5 Billion in 1993

OW1102180493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1519 GMT 11 Feb 93

[From the 12 February "Foreign Trade" weekly feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Weapons exports from Russia this year may reach $3.5 Bn [billion], the Chairman of the Committee on the Defense Industry Viktor Glukhikh said Thursday [11 February] at a session of the Presidium of the government. The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations said this indicator was $1.8 Bn for 1992.

Television To Start Series Covering Parliament Sessions

OW1102200793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1914 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of the Russian parliament's Mass Media Committee, Vladimir Lisin, on Thursday [11 February] told parliament Russian Television will be

starting a series of programs in March covering parliament sessions. The title of the series is "RTV-Parliament." The programs, originally starting at 6:30 p.m., will be on daily except on Sundays.

Lisin said the annual expenditure on the programs will be 300 million rubles. There will be studios in the parliament building, which will cost over one million dollars to equip.

Supreme Soviet

Supreme Soviet Presidium Considers Draft Laws

PM1102150393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Feb 93 First Edition p 1

[Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Press Center report: "Supreme Soviet Presidium Session"]

[Text] A routine session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium was held 8 February in the House of the Soviets under the chairmanship of R.I. Khasbulatov and N.T. Ryabov.

In accordance with parliamentary procedure, draft laws being submitted for consideration by the chambers' standing commissions, Supreme Soviet committees, and other initiators of legislation, were presented at the session. These include:

—draft laws "On Control of the Circulation of Narcotic Substances and Psychotropic Substances"; "On Preventive Measures Against AIDS"; "On the Introduction of Amendments and Additions to the RSFSR Law 'On the RSFSR Judicial System,' and the RSFSR Criminal-Procedural and Criminal Codes and the RSFSR Code on Administrative Offenses"; and "On the Introduction of Amendments and Additions to the Russian Federation Law 'On the Status of Judges in the Russian Federation'";

—Supreme Soviet draft decrees "On the Ratification of the Russian Federation-Armenian Republic Treaty on the Legal Status of the Russian Federation Armed Forces on the Territory of the Armenian Republic"; "On the Russian Federation Draft Law 'On the Introduction of Amendments and Additions to Certain Russian Federation Laws on Questions of Facilities for Children Not in the Charge of Parents'"; "On Certain Questions Concerning the Application of the Principles of Civil Legislation of the USSR and Republics on the Territory of the Russian Federation"; "On the Introduction of Amendments to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Decree dated 10 July 1992 'On the Procedure for Enacting the Russian Federation Law 'On Education'"; and "On Certain Questions Concerning the Application of Budget-Taxation Legislation in the Chuvash Republic."

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium ratified the procedure for holding elections to the Supreme Soviet and the president head of executive power of the Ingush Republic.

Other questions of the republic's state life were also examined at the session.

Adopts Law on Military Service

LD1102142193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1145 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Mariya Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Feb—The Russian parliament today adopted a law "On military duty and military service." The main struggle developed over an amendment from the president, which in the end was rejected. The essence of the amendment was that the president suggested retaining the right to defer the call up for students in full-time further education, but not to extend this privilege to those at technical colleges or vocational schools. As a result, according to information from the Ministry of Defense, 108,000 people would not be called up to serve in the Army.

The deputies were not persuaded by the speech of Deputy Defense Minister Valeriy Mironov, who said that the Army has now reached a "critical level in terms of personnel numbers," and is not able "to carry out the tasks with which it is charged to the full extent." Mironov cited figures on the outcome of the 1992 autumn call up, according to which there was a 55.8 percent complement of privates, sergeants, warrant officers, and seamen.

As of 1 January this year, 1,814,000 people of conscript age are registered for military service, of whom two-thirds will not be called up for military service under existing legislation. This means that in 1993 only 416,000 people can be sent into the Army. The situation is made worse by the fact that 850,000 people will be transferred to the reserve at the end of their length of service this year.

In Mironov's opinion the Army's staffing problem will not be solved in the near future by the move to contractual service, since this is a lengthy process: It will be possible for only 30 percent of the Russian Army to be staffed by professionals by 1995 and 50 percent by 2000.

Approves State Security Measure

OW1102200493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1914 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [11 February] the Russian Supreme Soviet approved a bill in its second reading "On State Security for Higher Organs of State Power and Officials of the Russian Federation." It applies to higher bodies of

legislative, executive, and judicial bodies of the Russian Federation and the officials of these organs. According to the bill, the federal security service organs will belong to Russian security forces.

The bill's authors accepted the possibilities both of forming independent federal security bodies for each branch of power, based on the constitutional principle of separation of powers, and the formation of a single federal state security service.

This was prompted by the resolution adopted during a peak in the conflict between powers at the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies, which stipulated forming a separate security service for representatives of organs of power.

According to the new law on forming a security service, the service can be reorganized or disbanded only by the Russian Supreme Soviet and the president.

The bill will be given a third reading, during which deputies will be able to introduce additional amendments.

Rejects Constitution Discussion Proposal

LD1202101993 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 12 Feb 93

[From the "Novosti" network]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet has turned down a proposal to hear at today's joint session of the chambers a draft of the basic points of the new Russian Constitution, which is due to be put to a referendum on 11 April. The proposal was made by Deputy Sergey Sheboldayev. Yuriy Voronin, parliament's deputy chairman, reminded deputies that a process of talks is underway by the state's top leaders concerning a referendum, and explained that at the moment it is inexpedient to discuss at the Supreme Soviet a draft of the basic points of the new Russian Constitution while it is being examined in parliamentary committees and commissions.

Correspondent Marina Polikarpova reports:

[Polikarpova] On the agenda of today's session of the Russian parliament are discussions of a draft law on the export and import of articles of cultural value, and on physical culture and sports. Deputies also intend to take another specific step in implementing social policy: to examine at a third reading the draft law on pensions for military servicemen. Work on this document has been in progress since last summer and has been closely coordinated with the Defense Ministry. In the opinion of the Commission for Social Policy, the pension system for military servicemen should be the same as the pension system for civilians.

Andrey Kozyrev, the minister of foreign affairs, is expected to speak at today's evening session on the foreign policy of the Russian Federation.

Foreign Policy Document Given to Parliamentarians

LD1202110793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1026 GMT 12 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 12 TASS—The text of the Russian foreign policy concept was handed out to members of the Russian parliament here today. As noted by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in his covering note to chairman of the corresponding parliamentary committee Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, this document is "An upshot of joint efforts exerted from March 1992 by the Foreign Ministry, other departments, parliamentary committees, scientific and public circles".

The concept sums up the key directions of Russia's efforts on the international arena. It is based on the country's dedication to fundamental democratic values and the country's national interests. In Kozyrev's opinion, it "outlines a flexible system of priorities for day-to-day practical diplomatic work". The concept stipulates a systematic correction of the working methods used by the Foreign Ministry, depending on the development of the international situation and Russian statehood.

In accordance with this concept, Russia's main foreign policy tasks are to stop armed confrontations and settle conflicts around Russia, to prevent them from spreading to Russian territory, to ensure the strict observance of human rights in CIS countries, especially the rights of ethnic Russians and the Russian-speaking population. The key task is to preserve the unity and integrity of the Russian Federation. All this calls for well-coordinated and permanent efforts by all the state structures of Russia, the analytical document of the Foreign Ministry stresses.

Supreme Soviet Conference Discusses Constitutional Reform

PM1102133593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Feb 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Pavel Anokhin report under the "Conference" rubric: "How to Overcome the Constitutional Crisis"]

[Text] A conference was held at the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet 9 February, at which the progress of constitutional reform in republics within the Russian Federation was examined. Members of the Russian Constitutional Commission, republic leaders, and trained experts were present.

The session was opened by Nikolay Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and deputy chairman of the Constitutional Commission. He read a report on the single Russian constitutional area and constitutional reform in the republics within the Russian Federation. The speaker particularly appealed that the process now under way should not be seen as a way of creating a Russian state through the Federation

Treaty. "Today we are talking about overcoming previous constitutional decline and the remnants of the past system," he noted. Nikolay Ryabov believes that many of the concepts and postulates on which the state is built, for example the right of nations to self-determination, the sovereignty of republics, and the distinguishing features between contemporary notions of the "kray" and "oblast," are of a demagogic nature and require new scientific interpretation. The speaker focused attention on the reasons for the present constitutional crisis in the country and the preconditions for the violation of the unity of the Russian state. According to him, these are separatism, legal nihilism, the undeveloped state of the Federation Treaty statutes, and the economic policy which violates the economic laws of members of the Federation.

Academician Boris Topornin, director of the Russian Academy of Sciences State and Law Institute, believes that in their documents, the drafters of the Constitution, both in the center and in the republics, make poor use of science and the developments it has made over the years. He subjected the content of the Federation Treaty to careful analysis from the position of a scientist, underlining concepts like associated member, asymmetric structure, sovereign state, federalism. According to him, in their implementation of the Federation Treaty statutes, the Russian Federation authorities do not make use of the principles of a rule of law state, such as court hearings of problems under dispute.

Professor Yuriy Tikhomirov, deputy director of the Russian Academy of Sciences State and Law Institute, sees the fact that the ministries and the government have still not been restructured either structurally or functionally as one of the reasons why the Federation Treaty has faltered.

The participants in the conference noted that, in the face of the instability of its constitutional system, the threat of the destruction of the Russian Federation's state unity has recently been growing. The unconstitutional actions by a number of republics, which are unilaterally violating our state's constitutional system as determined in the Russian Federation Constitution, is a serious factor of this instability.

The participants in the conference deemed it vital to carry out constitutional reforms in the republics within the Russian Federation in strict accordance with the Russian Federation Basic Law, and to coordinate their implementation with the basic statutes of the concept of constitutional reform in the Russian Federation and its phases.

Specific proposals were adopted on overcoming the constitutional crisis. It was decided to submit to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session the question of the conformity of constitutions of republics within the Russian Federation to the Russian Federation Basic Law.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin, Moscow Mayor Discuss City's Food Supplies

OW1002214393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1943 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov speaking in an interview with INTERFAX at the end of Wednesday's [10 February] meeting with President Yeltsin to discuss the food situation in the city said he had informed the president that the government programme of food supplies to Moscow had virtually flopped.

The Mayor said Yeltsin was "closely watching the way the city's economic problems were being resolved and trying to help it".

Luzhkov denied raising the issue of Russian-speaking communities in the Baltic states, though adding it would come under discussion as he meets Yeltsin again.

Moscow Mayor Receives Nixon

LD1202095493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0907 GMT 12 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow February 12 TASS—U.S. ex-President Richard Nixon had a meeting today with Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov. They stressed during the meeting the need for achieving socio-political stability in society, which is of crucial importance to Russia for overcoming the crisis [as received].

Nixon expressed support for the efforts, exerted by the Russian leadership, for switching over the national economy to new rails.

Luzhkov called his attention to the fact, which he described as positive: Despite all difficulties connected with reforming the Russian economy, people come to realise that free economy based on competition could give them more than the former administrative economic management.

Both Luzhkov and Nixon supported a further development of cooperation between the United States and Russia.

Moscow Mayor To 'Disrupt' Ties With Estonia, Latvia

LD1202111693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0916 GMT 12 feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow February 12 TASS—Mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov is going to disrupt economic and scientific ties with the Baltic states of Latvia and Estonia in retaliation for violations of human rights of the Russian-speaking population there.

In conditions of the human rights violations the Moscow government believes it impossible to continue implementing agreements on economic, scientific, technical and other types of cooperation concluded with Latvia and Estonia and will inform their embassies on the decision, the mayor said in an address to the Russian Government, TASS learned from sources close to the Moscow administration on Friday.

The mayor asked the government to support his decision.

Moscow Mayor Wants Parliament To Settle Election Dispute

OW1102215693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1932 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The ongoing campaign for organizing mayoral elections is an attempt to destabilize the social and political situation in the capital, believes Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov. The activities of the campaign's organizers, "from the portion of the deputy corps which has been politicized to a stupor," should receive a fitting evaluation from the Russian Supreme Soviet, he said during a conversation with an INTERFAX correspondent Thursday [11 February].

Luzhkov feels the Supreme Soviet should react to the fact that the Moscow Council has, on several occasions, ignored court resolutions on the illegality of the mayoral elections. Luzhkov thinks that this gives legislators the right to pass a resolution disbanding the current staff of the Moscow Council and banning the planned elections.

Moscow Area Deputies Oppose Referendum

OW1102132893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1221 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Maly Soviet of the Moscow regional Soviet of people's deputies has called on the parliament, the president and the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation to reach constitutional agreement on their interaction without conducting an all-Russian referendum.

The appeal adopted by the Moscow-area deputies indicated that the referendum based on the question of the future constitutional system for the country under the conditions of deep economic crisis of the state system of Russia and the corresponding agitating campaign around these questions "will not meet today's interests of the people."

The authors of the appeal think that all branches of power set up and functioning in Russia "must bear upon themselves the responsibility for what is happening and not involve the people in complex political games but act together in the interests of the people." In their opinion there should be no referendum in the absence of guarantees and the mechanism for the realization of the results of the referendum, and while there is uncertainty as to the responsibility of high officials.

Tatar President 'Sure' Referendum Will Not Take Place

MK1102100793 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Feb 93 pp 1, 3

[Interview with President Shaymiyev of Tatarstan by Radik Batyrshin; place and date not given: "Referendum Will Lead to Distortion in Structure of Russia's State Administration. President Mintimer Shaymiyev of Tatarstan Against Plebiscite"]

[Text] [Batyrshin] NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has already reported that Tatarstan's leadership is not exactly delighted about the referendum. Were you able to convince the Russian president of this at the Council of Heads of Republics?

[Shaymiyev] I think so, to a large extent. And Boris Yeltsin's statement after the Council of Heads of Republics session, at the Constitutional Commission, reflected the republics' stance. Because all the republics except Chuvashia and Mordovia expressed the view that the referendum should not be held. In my speech I said that today, when Russia has all the branches of power, there is no need to bother with a Constituent Assembly. Because when people talk about the principles of the Constitution they are implying a problem of power. Why does this problem arise? In my view, it arises from the desire to use the referendum to bring about a distortion of one branch of power to the advantage of another. That must not be allowed. Today we must seek a compromise, and we advised Boris Yeltsin and the leaders of the Supreme Soviet and the Constitutional Court to find a form of conciliatory procedure and get on with the reforms. Today we have a government headed by Chernomyrdin. It was proposed by the president, so the president supports it. The Supreme Soviet also supports it, with an element of skepticism. The government could be a useful linking component which should be utilized to ensure that all the branches of power work in harmony. I think Viktor Chernomyrdin's government should be supported, so as to help it to implement the reforms. And I am convinced that a moratorium should be declared on a referendum on any question, for a year or more.

[Batyrshin] Can one deduce from what you say that the referendum would lead to a new power crisis in Russia?

[Shaymiyev] At any rate, it will not lead to stabilization.

[Batyrshin] Although Tatarstan did not sign the Federation Treaty, the problem of its implementation affects Tatarstan too, since it is a question of decentralizing

Russia's state administration system. Did you make any progress toward resolving this problem?

[Shaymiyev] In my speech I stressed that when there is no centralized administration or support system, it is ridiculous to try to create the semblance of governability from the Center. This is too costly for both Moscow and the regions, it is a pure waste of effort, nervous energy, and emotion. Except for the powers that the regions delegate to Russia, everything else should be handed over to the regions. Because if something does not work out somewhere, it is not all Russia's problem, it is the individual regions' problem. Ultimately the regions will solve it for themselves. Today the experience of Tatarstan as a more autonomous region shows that, having assumed the responsibility, we are not now complaining to anyone, we take responsibility for everything. From any point of view, this is a very logical way of doing things. In the present situation we are confident that we will improve the population's position as regards food supplies. Our path of slow but steady progress toward the market has proved fully justified. Incidentally, the new Russian Government is now trying to follow this path, which Tatarstan chose a year ago. It may be immodest to say so, but at the Council of Heads of Republics session Eduard Kubarev, chairman of the Chuvashia Supreme Soviet Presidium, noted that Tatarstan has a president, a parliament, and a government, but there is no conflict.

As for the federal structure, the question should be framed in terms of treaty-constitutional principles, that is, moving from treaty to constitution. The treaty with the Russian Federation can differ in scope depending on the potential of each republic, which voluntarily delegates powers. After that, relations should be constitutionally enshrined. And then the question of violating Russia's integrity will not arise. The sides' mutual goodwill will give such an agreement power. And then the supremacy of the constitution on these issues will be observed. It will be a voluntary limitation of sovereignty.

[Batyrshin] The Council of Heads of Republic discussed the draft Russian Constitution, as well as the work of the executive secretary of the Constitutional Commission....

[Shaymiyev] The Council of Heads of Republics did not consider the cadre question in this context (it was decided to recommend that the composition of the Constitutional Commission be renewed—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA). But there is dissatisfaction among the heads of republics. The executive secretary of the Constitutional Commission should be more responsible. His post makes this incumbent on him. This responsibility should at least mean that in his statements in the regions and in Moscow he takes an appropriate line.

[Batyrshin] The expert groups are supposed to have drawn up draft agreements within the framework of the bilateral treaty between Russia and Tatarstan by 9 February. Will the treaty be signed by April?

[Shaymiyev] I am not going to link April to the date of signing the treaty, because I am sure the referendum will not take place. But all the same, we will achieve the signing of the treaty.

Shaymiyev Views Current Situation in Tatarstan

OW1202042193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1558 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Interview with President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev by correspondent Guzel Fazulina; place and date not given; first paragraph is introduction—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The character of relations between Russia and Tatarstan in many ways suggests that the Russian Federation may suffer the same fate as the Soviet Union. Observers say that this is causing anxiety both in Moscow and in Kazan. Now, negotiations have entered a new phase - in addition to the treaty on mutual delegation of authority, agreements are being prepared on an array of economic questions. What sort of demands does Kazan intend to make? Will the parties be able to overcome the contradictions which have arisen? Is the center capable of saving the federation? These questions were the subject of an interview by Interfax correspondent Guzel Fazulina with Tatar President Mintimer Shaymiyev.

"IF" [INTERFAX]: Do you share the opinion of certain political figures that Russia is on the edge of collapse? If so, what do you think could save it?

SHAYMIYEV: It wouldn't do, at this point, to dramatize the situation and talk about the inevitability of Russia's collapse. There do exist contradictions between the center and the periphery - not only the republics, but also the regions and oblasts. They still have a latent character, but may become aggravated. The basic contradiction is that on one hand, there is the center's striving to keep power, though it no longer has the former power structures - central planning and allocation of resources - at its disposal. On the other hand, there is the objective necessity of regional independence.

Life in many cases inevitably draws the regions out of the framework of obsolete Russian legislation. Moscow and St. Petersburg have for some time been not only outside the Federative Treaty, but outside many provisions of the Constitution itself. The Federative Treaty itself is coming under serious fire from critics in the signatory republics. You can't pretend that nothing is going on and explain everything by calling it the ambitions of local leaders.

"IF": Do you think it is possible for the Russian center to set forth a model for a state structure which is attractive to the regions? Won't the constituent republics cut off such initiatives?

SHAYMIYEV: It would be nice to hope it possible. I have no doubt that the Russian leadership will comprehend the inevitability of granting a lot of rights to local authorities and keeping for itself only strategically

important roles: defense and security, the environment, communications throughout Russia, and so on. The question is when this will happen. If the center had accepted the principle of structuring Russia through the kind of mutual relations suggested by Tatarstan - voluntary delegation of authority by way of treaties - separatist tendencies would have lost ground. Any attempt to keep constituent republics in the federation by force is a dead-end street. The sooner this is understood in Moscow, the smaller Russia's losses will be.

"IF": Do you think it is possible that a tripartite political bloc comprised of Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, and Yakutia (Sakha) could emerge and stand in serious opposition to the center?

SHAYMIYEV: It is possible if the center, as it has done before, fails to understand the processes going on in these republics. The Russian parliament is now attempting to revise the constitutions of Tatarstan, Yakutia, Bashkortostan, and various other republics so as to bring them into conformity with the obsolete Basic Law of Russia. In such a situation, we can act in the name of three or more republics.

"IF": At the last round of negotiations, a communique was signed fixing the treaty's basis on the constitutional principle of relations between Tatarstan and Russia. Does this mean that the treaty, having become part of the constitution of both countries, could not be renounced or that the degree of authority therein strengthened could not be changed?

SHAYMIYEV: This question is still in the discussion phase. We must specify the principles of relations in the treaty and thereby transform it within the parameters of the constitution.

"IF": If the treaty between Tatarstan and Russia gets constitutional reinforcement, as with the Federative Treaty, how will it differ principally from the latter?

SHAYMIYEV: The Federative Treaty delimits authority between the constituent republics and federal organs of power. We are insisting that this be done by mutual delegation, and advancing this as a dominant principle of equality and free will. Besides, traditionally all rights remain with the republics, and the authority to maintain them must, in our opinion, lie substantially with the center.

Under such an arrangement, the integrity of Russia is not violated. Within a framework of delegated authority, Tatarstan will adhere strictly to Russian legislation and its political and economic responsibilities. Tatarstan is not afraid of limiting its sovereignty if this is done in its own interests. We did not, of course, declare our sovereignty simply for its own sake. I think that the principle of mutual relations between Moscow and Kazan could become the model for the establishment of a Union Federation. Rights are, first of all, responsibilities: those who do not wish to take these upon themselves do not, and will shift them onto the shoulders of the center.

"IF": Could the political battle which is unfolding before the Russian referendum influence the progress of the negotiations?

SHAYMIYEV: I consider it possible that certain political forces are trying to play the Tatarstan card purely out of temporary expediency. One should not think, however, that this will be successful and bear on our position. The last round of negotiations showed that at the highest echelons of power, Russia has ceased to see us as wreckers of the federation. It is important to understand that Tatarstan's position is in no way simply ambition on the part of President Shaymiyev. We always act accordingly and proceed from this premise at the negotiating table. This touches upon the Russian press mainly in that I think its misfortune consisted in that from the beginning, journalists invented Tatarstan's image and then scared themselves because they believed in it. Believing in idiotic intentions is always simpler and easier than believing in good intentions. We have already gone through this.

"IF": Will the Russian referendum be held in Tatarstan?

SHAYMIYEV: The constitution guarantees residents of Tatarstan double citizenship, and they will have the opportunity to take part in the Russian referendum. The problem is a different one: if by then the republic has not signed the treaty with Russia, and there remains uncertainty in our mutual relations, exactly what are people going to be voting for? For the violation of the Basic Law of Tatarstan, which envisions negotiated relations with Russia? All assertions that Shaymiyev is against the holding of the referendum in the republic are groundless.

"IF": What is the likelihood that a signed treaty between Russia and Tatarstan would be included in the Russian constitution?

SHAYMIYEV: Tatarstan has the legislative initiative. The law on bringing the constitution into effect stipulates an appeal to the Russian parliament or congress to provide constitutional reinforcement to relations between Russia and Tatarstan. The treaty is a bilateral act. Thus, once they have signed it, the Russian side will have to take the next step by guaranteeing its legitimacy.

"IF": After the formation of the CIS, you said that Tatarstan might become a member of the Commonwealth. At the same time, it intended to delegate Russia the authority to guarantee defense and state security and to resolve environmental problems, that is, those duties which commonwealth states delegate to a general coordinating structure. Does this mean that Tatarstan refuses the idea of becoming a full member of the CIS?

SHAYMIYEV: For us, the main thing right now is to settle relations with Russia and similarly with other CIS states through inter-state agreements. No treaty, however, should be at the expense of a third party.

"IF": How realistic is the idea of economic independence for Tatarstan considering the degree to which it depends on Russia?

SHAYMIYEV: Tatarstan is one of the few regions of Russia which did not and does not need subsidies. Independence is mutual. I think Russia is dependent on Tatarstan to the same extent as we are on Russia. We are asked how we will transport our oil on Russian territory. And how does Russia get oil from Siberia on our territory? Oil and gas pipelines pass through Tatarstan.

The leaders of Tatarstan is criticized because Moscow finances defense industries on its territory, but of course they are filling orders from the Russian defense ministry. We can always find clients, as the products of Tatarstan's military-industrial complex are in demand. But is this profitable for Russia? Would it be profitable for Russia to deny Tatarstan credit resources, thereby forcing it to leave the ruble zone? I therefore believe that all such conversations are just the result of politicking and ignorance of actual conditions. Tatarstan is not living in debt, and an easy entry into the free market is guaranteed solely by our own means, and not by foreign credits. Real wages here are now higher, on the average, than in Russia.

"IF": What guarantee is there that Tatarstan will not follow the path of the Baltic states with respect to the position of Russians in the republic?

SHAYMIYEV: Our situation is quite different: the main guarantor is our constitution, which guarantees equal rights to all citizens, regardless of nationality. The state has two official languages - Tatar and Russian. And, finally, double citizenship affords citizens of Tatarstan the protection of Russian laws. Nobody has yet left the republic due to ethnic tension. There were attempts to attach sovereignty to ethnic coloration, but today even extremist nationalist organizations are acting very carefully. Several representatives of so- called "pro-Russian democratic movements" simultaneously made similar attempts to carry out disruptive work both in Russia itself and in Tatarstan.

"IF": The current leadership is managing to maintain a parity of interests, but after elections, extreme nationalists may come to power.

SHAYMIYEV: I don't think their views will find many supporters. I doubt whether an extreme national-patriot or chauvinist could come to power in Tatarstan, given its ethnic composition. This might be possible in a country with a single principal ethnicity, but our ethnic parity saves us from extremism in politics. I don't rule out the possibility that a mass social movement may appear which stands on centrist positions which may attract a majority in elections.

"IF": Do you mean the establishment of a presidential party? After all, it is you who now occupies this centrist position.

SHAYMIYEV: I think it will be a party or movement whose ideas a president may share.

"IF": Is there a social movement in Tatarstan which has a significant influence on politics? Do you have an opposition?

SHAYMIYEV: Certain social movements and parties who have declared themselves in opposition are eager to become the opposition. There are now no movements in Tatarstan which could somehow seriously influence official policy, since they reflect the ambitions of their leaders rather than the interests of the people.

Tatar Prime Minister Visits Southeast Asia

MK1202072493 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 9

[Galina Pechelina, Sergey Tsekhmistrenko report: "Tatar Prime Minister Visits the 'Three Dragons.' Tatarstan Forges Ties With Taiwan"]

[Text] Tatarstan Prime Minister Mukhammad Sabirov has returned from a private visit to Singapore, Taiwan, and South Korea. The visit was arranged and paid for by the Hungarian branch of the European Economics Institute. Observers note that in the case of Taiwan, this was the first visit by a member of the Russian Government to a country not officially recognized by Moscow.

The Kazan authorities took pains to keep Sabirov's visit secret: Neither the prime minister's apparatus nor the republic's Foreign Economic Relations Ministry would give any information on the subject. To reach Southeast Asia, Sabirov went a roundabout way via Hungary, for which he set out early last week, and he returned to Kazan by the same route—from Taipei via Budapest.

It was not by chance that Sabirov chose to make his visit a private one: A visit of this kind does not have to be agreed with the Russian Foreign Ministry. This was important, because Sabirov is formally a member of the Russian cabinet, and Russia, which does not have diplomatic relations with Taiwan, has repeatedly stated that it recognizes "the existence of only one China."

While Sabirov was in Taiwan, REUTER carried a report claiming that a $1 million contract had been signed for deliveries of Tatarstan oil to Taiwan on barter terms. On his return, Sabirov denied the report, but he did not exclude the possibility of future oil deliveries to Taiwan, and also to South Korea and Singapore, on "mutually advantageous terms." Experts believe that the reason for the Southeast Asian trip was to seek new, untapped markets for Tatarstan oil: Tatarstan has been given a quota whereby it can sell 5 million tonnes of its 1993 oil production.

In an interview for KOMMERSANT-DAILY, Sabirov said that he had had particularly fruitful talks in Seoul with the management of Daewoo, one of the largest corporations in South Korea, about the possibility of

setting up a multipurpose joint venture that could produce the Tiko car, which resembles the Oka but is more economical and more comfortable. In May or April, a group of experts from Singapore and Taiwan is expected to visit Kazan. Sabirov believes that the visit may result in the signing of contracts between Tatarstan companies and their oriental partners.

According to KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts, forging direct contacts with Taiwan—potentially a long-term and large-scale consumer of all types of raw materials—is of particular importance for Tatarstan. Taiwan is a large investor that has an excess of free capital amounting to $80 billion. Furthermore, in the past few years the island has been increasingly liberalizing its capital export policy, prompting Taiwanese investors to search for effective investment opportunities, including in the CIS. Taiwan does not have the raw materials required for its economy to function normally, but it does have a huge export and finance potential. Sabirov's initiative will enable Tatarstan to pursue the opportunities that Russia is so far unable to take advantage of at state level.

Chernomyrdin Orders Money, Fuel Relief for Far East

OW1102140893 Magadan Radio Magadan in Russian 0800 GMT 11 Feb 93

[From the "Oblast News"]

[Text] Last week, Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Soviet of Ministers, issued a directive according to which the Russian Ministry of Finance, together with the Central Bank, in the shortest possible time will solve the problem of the urgent allocation of credits to pay February transportation and freight handling costs to the Sakhalin, Magadan, and Kamchatka Oblasts, as well as to Maritime Kray enterprises.

The Russian Ministry of Fuel and Energy is required within the week to dispatch 7,000 tonnes of diesel and 17,000 tonnes of motor fuel aboard Sakhalin, Kamchatka, Maritime, and Far East shipping vessels, which are to travel by special routes.

This directive warns the leadership of the Khabarovsk and Maritime Kray executive bodies not to permit re-routing of the vessels carrying fuel to Sakhalin, Magadan, and Kamchatka Oblasts.

The Russian premier's orders have been issued to ensure steady work for the fleet transporting the cargo, which is primarily fuel for the Far East region, including our own Magadan Oblast.

Finland Loans St Petersburg 8 Million Marks

OW1102132793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1211 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government of Finland has extended St. Petersburg a loan of 8 million Finnish marks to buy systems for collecting oil from the surface of the Gulf of Finland. This money will be used to buy and assemble 18 such facilities produced by the Lore company. Through the Lore company, the entire amount of the emulsion thus collected will be sold to the Finnish concern Neste as a way of returning the loan. The equipment is expected to start paying back in a few years. It is mostly intended for dealing with oil leaks in the Gulf of Finland. In ecologists' estimate, several dozen tons of oil annually leak into the Neva Spit and the Gulf of Finland.

Sakhalin Oblast Deputies on National Referendum

OW1102140693 Vladivostok Radio Vladivostok Network in Russian 0815 GMT 11 Feb 93

[From the "Pacific Ocean" program]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk: Chairmen of the Sakhalin Oblast city and rayon soviets of people's deputies expressed doubts over the advisability of conducting the national referendum scheduled for 11 April. In their opinion, the preparations for and the conduct of the referendum will aggravate the political situation in the country and deepen the conflict between legislative and executive authorities. In these tough economic crisis conditions, this could bring unpredictable consequences.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Signs Documents on Black Sea Fleet Command

LD1102132493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1214 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has already signed agreements on the creation of a single command of the Black Sea Fleet and on its financing, according to the press centre of the disputed Black Sea Fleet which quoted Ivan Yermakov, Kravchuk's representative in Sevastopol, the major base of the navy in the Crimea. The agreements were prepared by state delegations of Russia and Ukraine.

Currently Russian President Boris Yeltsin is considering the documents, according to Yermakov who attended a meeting of Ukrainian Defence Minister Konstyantyn Morozov with Admiral Baltin, the fleet commander.

Morozov, who visited two warships in Sevastopol on Thursday [11 February], assured navy officers that although a majority of the fleet's personnel has sweared allegiance to Ukraine, he would refrain from signing any orders subordinating Black Sea Fleet units to his country.

However, the minister said he would not deal with the Coordinating Council of Officers' Assemblies of the fleet as the body is unconstitutional.

Morozov: Fleet Must Be Divided

OW1102201193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1914 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstyantyn Morozov has declared that the division of Black Sea Fleet should be carried out within terms determined by the Yalta agreements of Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk and be completed by January 1995. At a press conference devoted to results of his visit to fleet ships and held on Thursday in Sevastopol, he also said that "our task is to solve all issues concerning division of Black Sea Fleet within this time."

Morozov does not think that "any political decisions" can influence the status of Sevastopol. "We have no problems with Russia; it has recognized Ukraine within the existing borders," noted the Minister.

According to Ukrainian Defense Minister, the appointment of Eduard Baltin as commander of the Black Sea Fleet "allows to hope that the warming of relations is underway." "He represents consensus of the two states and is responsible for the search of mutually acceptable decisions," Morozov said. "I connect his appointment with the hope that problems artificialiy created by both sides will be solved."

The Defense Minister also underlined that he does not intend to sign directives about re-subordination of all Black Sea Fleet units and detachments to Ukrainian Defense Ministry. The day before during his meeting with Baltin, Morozov also promised that he will consult with Russian party before making any decisions.

Ukrainian Defense Minister reported that he disagrees with the statement of Rear Admiral Borys Kozhyn, commander of the Ukrainian Navy, who declared that Ukrainian marines should be brought up according to the principles of Ukrainian nationalism. "This testifies to a lack of deep thinking when speaking about such historic understandings. Such statements are destructive and cause unnecessary nervousness," the Minister said.

United Kingdom Grants Guarantees To Hurry START I

LD1102221993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2206 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By UKRINFORM special correspondent for ITAR-TASS Vladimir Voronko and Viktor Demidenko]

[Text] London February 12 TASS—Britain extended to Ukraine security guarantees in order to speed up its ratification of the SALT-1 [as received] Treaty and joining of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, visiting Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk told a meeting with British members of parliament here today.

In his view, this move will help convince Ukrainian legislators that all countries are interested in the ratification of the treaty and are ready to extend Ukraine pertinent aid in nuclear disarmament.

Addressing a press conference, Kravchuk added that the discussion of the SALT-1 Treaty will take place in parliament right after it resumes work on February 16. This delay was prompted by the need thoroughly to study this document—its analysis has already been completed—and the Ukrainian people's desire to get the guarantees of their security.

Kravchuk voiced hope that parliament will solve this issue positively. Ukraine does not want to change the strategic balance of forces in the world but it needs technical and material assistance in destroying nuclear weapons. Russia faces the same financial problem.

Disarmament efforts require huge funds and 175 million dollars in financial aid promised only by the U.S. side for the present are inadequate, from his point of view. Specialists estimated that the spending on eliminating nuclear armaments approximately equals the cost of their creation.

Kravchuk said this financial aspect was not discussed with the British prime minister but it was considered during a meeting with European Bank for Reconstruction and Development President Jacques Attali and the bank agreed to set up a special fund. Following the

elimination of nuclear weapons, money from this fund could eventually go to implement a project to protect the environment and social programmes.

Dwelling in greater detail on other results of the visit to Britain, Kravchuk noted that inter-state political and economic agreements signed in London will help develop British-Ukrainian relations. "We attach much importance to these bilateral ties because Ukraine has vast reserves for further cooperation in all areas," he said. This concerns particularly the conversion of enterprises in the military-produciton complex, power engineering, the electro-engineering industry and car manufacturing, the financial system and the agro-industrial sector. Relations with Britain are developing at different levels.

Statement Outlines Obstacles to Destroying Nuclear Arms

OW1102175293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1721 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine will need at least $2 Bn [billion] for the destruction of strategic nuclear arms, and the removal of missiles from the republic will cost more than $6 Bn.

These figures come from a statement from the influential Ukrainian parliamentary faction Congress of National Democratic Forces (CNDF). The statement was drawn up in connection with the Supreme Soviet's upcoming discussion of the START-1 treaty.

130 Ukrainian CC-19 missiles contain approximately 13,000 tons of highly toxic fuel. Ukraine is in no position to destroy them because it lacks the technical means to do so.

While expressing their principal agreement with the need to destroy nuclear weapons located on Ukrainian territory, the CNDF draws the world community's attention to the fact that "financial, economic, and ecological problems in nuclear disarmament will not allow the republic to dismantle their nuclear weapons in an extremely short period of time."

The National Democrats' statement also points out that "under conditions when the Russian Government is advancing territorial claims on Ukraine, we are forced to consider nuclear weapons as a means of strategic defense."

Kravchuk, British Businessmen Discuss Investment in Ukraine

LD1102175993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1648 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By UKRINFORM-ITAR-TASS special correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Vladimir Voronkov]

[Text] London February 11 TASS—Ukraine is interested in Western investments and is doing everything possible to attract foreign capital to its economy, President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine who is currently on an official visit to Britain, said today at a meeting with representatives of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), the largest association of British entrepreneurs.

With that end in view, Ukraine introduced a preferential system for foreign investors who are exempted from taxes for two to five years. A currency exchange of the National Bank of Ukraine will start operating in the near future. The republic attaches great importance to the creation of joint ventures with the participation of Western partners, Leonid Kravchuk noted.

The Ukrainian president was received by British Queen Elizabeth the Second who arranged a breakfast in his honour. Leonid Kravchuk also met with John Smith, leader of Britain's opposition Labour Party.

Today the Ukrainian president is leaving for Scotland.

Further on Meeting With Businessmen

LD1202114193 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk, who is here on an official visit, set himself the aim of painting the most complete economic and political picture of Ukraine for British entrepreneurs when addressing a special meeting of the Confederation of British Industry.

The construction of a new state is not going easily, he said. At the moment all of our actions are directed at taking Ukraine out of the production crisis, and at implementing political and economic reforms by democratic means. Great hopes are placed on the reconstruction of the monetary system. The elaboration of a legislative basis for creating a new financial mechanism is being completed at the moment. The final stage of this process will be the introduction of the new monetary unit, the hryvna. The issue of the convertability of Ukrainian currency is being resolved.

Ukraine is interested in western investments, the president continued, and is doing everything possible to attract foreign capital to its economy. (?Its aim is to introduce) a preferential regime for foreign investors, in accordance with which businessmen are exempt from taxes for a period of between two and five years. A currency exchange of the National Bank of Ukraine will also begin to function soon.

Ukrainian Ship Comes Under Fire on Danube 10 Feb

LD1202113393 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] While passing through the Yugoslav part of the Danube, the "Zahorsk" motor vessel of the Ukrainian Danube Shipping Line came under fire from infantry weapons on the shore on 10 February. There were no fatalities.

In connection with this incident, the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine has made a resolute protest against these actions which are incompatible with the norms of international law and lead to a gross violation of the international arrangements on the Danube river established by the Danube Convention of 1948.

A demand has been made to the Yugoslav Government for an investigation into the incident. The Yugoslav Government has been asked to take necessary measures to guarantee immediately the safety of international navigation on the Danube.

Foreign Ministry Reiterates Adherence to Serbian Embargo

AU1202094093 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 9 Feb 93 p 1

[Statement issued by the Press Center of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kiev; date not given: "The Observance of Sanctions Is a Peace-Loving Position"]

[Text] **Various mass media have disseminated information that Serbia regards Ukraine's strict adherence to the embargo on the supply of petroleum products to that country as a manifestation of an anti-Serbian stance and threatens to introduce reciprocal sanctions against Ukraine.**

In this connection, the Press Center of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is authorized to state that Ukraine, as a member of the international community, looks responsibly upon its obligations stipulated by the United Nations Charter and strictly adheres to sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

Ukraine cannot agree with the claims that unconditional adherence to Security Council decisions represents a hostile position toward Serbia. The government of Ukraine is interested in the fastest possible resolution, by political means, of the conflict situation and in the elimination of the hotbed of tension in the southern part of Europe.

Arms Offered To Overseas Buyer at 'Below Dumping Prices'

OW1102181093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1519 GMT 11 Feb 93

[From the 12 February "Foreign Trade" weekly feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian-Siberian Universal Exchange (Kharkov), one of the republic's largest, has received a bid for the sale of a large lot of arms and military equipment intended for export from the CIS. The seller, who asked not to be identified, said the weapons must not be sold to CIS nations. The transaction cost exceeds $734 Mn [million].

The offer includes 27 MiG-27K stormers (NATO Fairchilds) produced in 1988-1990 for $16 Mn each; 14 YAK-28 PP bombers (Flyfish) produced in 1985-88 at $13 Mn, 5 Mi-6 helicopters at $2.1 Mn and 3 Mi-8 helicopters at $2 Mn.

The firm is also offering a lot of zenith missile systems for a total of over $14 Mn, as well as two diesel-powered KILO (NATO classification) submarines, 50 T-62 tanks, 30 T-64 tanks, and automated weapons control systems. The total equipment cost exceeds $89 Mn.

Russian experts received the news of the possible transaction with some degree of wariness, and said the equipment is being offered far below dumping prices.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma said at a press conference that Kiev and Moscow have agreed to the joint sale of weapons produced at Russian and Ukrainian plants, however these transactions will be government controlled. Kuchma warned that the legality of the attempt to sell the weapons on the exchange will be examined.

State Department Official on 'Bug' at Kiev Embassy

PM1102132993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Feb 93 p 3

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "Checked: No 'Bugs'"]

[Text] Washington—The U.S. Department of State reported Monday [8 February] through its spokesman that Washington has "no reason" to make any demarches to the Ukrainian Government.

The likelihood of a demarche had been very great, considering that, as THE WASHINGTON TIMES reported, citing intelligence sources, something very reminiscent of a "bug," i.e. a listening device, had been discovered in the U.S. Embassy building in Kiev.

The discovery was made 29 January: Experts came across wires in one of the walls. According to the newspaper, Roman Popadiuk, the ambassador to Ukraine, was so "angry at the likelihood that this was a 'bug'" that he at once sent a telegram to Washington proposing that a series of tough measures be taken against Ukraine.

Fortunately, none of this was required. There is "no reason" for demarches, State Department spokesman Joe Snyder said. He declined to elaborate further.

But elaboration has been provided to me by sources in the Department of State, who frankly said: A check was carried out, and they are not "bugs."

Ukrainian, Iranian Military Leaders Meet in Kiev

LD1102142693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1339 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zayka]

[Text] Kiev February 11 TASS—Problems of mutual interest were discussed today by Ukrainian Defence Ministers Colonel-General Ivan Bizhan and First Deputy Defence Minister of Iran Major General Mir Miran, who arrived in Kiev as member of the Iranian government delegation. The talks were marked by mutual understanding.

These are not the first contacts between the heads of the two military establishments, UKRINFORM was told by Major-General Mir Miran. The current meeting, and we regard it as part and parcel of the negotiations currently under way in the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers. "It was a useful meeting," he stressed. "We have achieved success precisely at this meeting," the Iranian general noted.

Republic Refuses To Sell Arms

LD1102143293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1408 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev February 11 TASS—Iranian Minister for Oil Qolam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i asked Ukrainian Speaker Ivan Plyushch today to make Ukrainian government bodies hasten up the implementation of Iranian-Ukrainian agreements on cooperation. He is now paying an official visit to Ukraine, where he was received today by the head of the Ukrainian parliament.

The Iranian minister noted that this was his second visit to Ukraine and that he hoped its continuation would be more successful than the first visit. Agreements on the supply of four million tonnes of Iranian oil to Ukraine were reached one year ago, during his first stay in Kiev. The term of the contract is expiring. But no progress has so far been made due to Ukrainian procrastinations. The next agreement was to the launch a joint venture with the participation of Iran, Azerbaijan and Ukraine to build, envisaging the construction of a gas pipeline to Ukraine in order to transport gas to Europe through it. The annual supply was estimated at 25 billion cubic metres of gas. However, Ukraine failed to make its contribution to the venture. The minister noted that Iran was selling oil on the world market for hard currency, but could deliver it to Ukraine, as an exception, on a barter basis. Touching on cooperation in the military area, the Iranian minister noted that there was an agreement with Russia on the delivery to Iran of everything it needed. "However, Iran could have a similar agreement with Ukraine," he stressed.

The minister said he had forwarded to the Ukrainian side some concrete proposals on cooperation in the sphere of energetics, as well as in industry and agriculture. Ukrainian counter-proposals have already been received.

Plyushch expressed anxiety over the dragged-out solution of cooperation problems through the fault of the Ukrainian side. He promised to instruct corresponding parliamentary commissions to assume control over this matter. "The Ukrainian government has not adopted a decision on the payment of Ukraine's contribution to the joint gas supply venture. As to arms trade, Ukraine will not sell weapons. Commodities will be used to pay for the Iranian oil," Plyushch stated.

Negotiate Pipeline to Europe

OW1202012093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1721 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Qolam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, Iran's Oil Minister, now on an official visit in Kiev, has asked Ivan Plyushch, Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament, to "use his influence" with the Ukrainian Government in order to accelerate the honoring of earlier agreements on cooperation in fuel supplies.

Last year the two countries agreed on annual delivery of four million tons of Iranian oil to Ukraine and on setting up a joint venture between Iran, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine on construction of an Iran-Europe pipeline.

The Iranian Minister said that the term of the contract on oil shipment was about to end but "there was no action because of Ukraine dragging her feet". Ukraine had not made her contribution to the pipeline whose capacity is expected to be 25 billion cubic meters of gas in a year.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i even said that Iran could treat Ukraine as an exceptional case and exchange oil with her for commodities rather than sell it for hard currency.

Plyushch promised directing the appropriate commission of the Ukrainian Parliament to see to it that the oil deal would be honored. He said that the Ukrainian Government had made a decision to make its contribution to the pipeline construction project.

On military cooperation the Minister said that his country had an agreement with Russia on delivery of "what Iran needs" but "we could have a similar agreement with Ukraine". Plyushch replied that Ukraine "will not trade in weaponry".

DPRK Delegation Holds Talks at Foreign Ministry

LD1102210693 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] A delegation of the foreign political department of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had a consultative meeting at the Foreign Ministry. The delegation was headed by special envoy (Kim Hen-khwan).

Issues of the current development of bilateral relations were discussed. The sides also exchanged opinions on issues of regional disarmament and of the work of international organizations.

National Affairs

Vice Ministers Hold News Conference on Reforms

WS1102134293 Kiev KYYIVSKA PRAVDA in Ukrainian 28 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by newspaper correspondent Y. Nepomnyashcha: "The Government Suggests a Way Out of the Crisis"]

[Text] The program for overcoming the crisis, which had to be prepared by the new government, and to which politicians have been looking forward, has finally been elaborated. On 26 January it was approved at the expanded session of the Cabinet of Ministers. On the same day, Vice Prime Ministers Viktor Pynzenyk, Yuliy Ioffe, and Mykola Zhulynskyy held a press conference.

The government plan is based on the analysis and elimination of the reasons that have led the Ukrainian economy to a disastrous situation. These reasons are: a complete lack of control over the state-run sector and incomes, the collapse of economic ties, a populist social policy, the failure of the credit policy, and so on.

Stabilization, that is the healing of the economy, demands strict administrative measures, which contradicts the nature of the market. But the government is not giving up either of these. The program shows that with one hand it is going to restore order, while with the other—create conditions for private business and ownership.

The government views its main objectives as the revival of the management of the state sector and the curbing of the inflation. At the same time, enterprises will be removed from under ministerial and department control. In the first half of 1993, enterprises with capital stock worth 20 million to 1.5 billion karbovanetses [K] will be transformed into open joint stock companies. The program envisions a budget deficit as high as K3 trillion. The government is planning to cope with this not by means of issuing a larger number of "empty" coupons; it will, among other things, take credits in commercial banks and issue securities with a fixed expiration date of 12 to 18 months.

The government will determine prices for the production of "natural monopolists" and strictly control the declared prices for the production of "artificial monopolists". It promises to halt the constant growth of prices in middleman operations and market and trade activity by means of progressive taxes.

The government is not going to change the already declared social policy, although it may lead to a new wave of confrontation in the legislature. V. Pynzenyk said that the government would not support those who had a healthy head and strong arms—these people should take care of themselves. We cannot create a society in which there will be only consumers. There would be nothing to consume, because nobody would be willing to work. The government will only grant support to people unable to work. Commenting on the deputies proposal to introduce fixed prices of the basics, the vice ministers said that the government would also like to do this, but fixing prices for milk and meat alone would demand not less than K1 trillion. Where should the government find money for this? Should this demand be covered by means of printing additional money, as was done in 1992? This has led the Ukrainian economy to galloping inflation.

In light of this, M. Zhulynskyy said that Ukraine, being a poor state, is spending money too lavishly. A large number of different funds has been created, humanitarian aid is totally uncontrolled.

Thus, the program is ready and soon will be discussed in the legislature. What will happen if the deputies do not like it, or certain political forces try to use it for their political games? "If the decrees are blocked," said M. Zhulynskyy, "the government will be paralyzed." Y. Ioffe added that he hoped that the legislature, which had subordinated a part of its powers to the government, would have enough sanity not to block its activity.

Prime Minister, Businessmen Discuss Economic Crisis

LD1102161693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1457 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Kiev February 11 TASS—Ways to pull Ukraine out of the crisis were discussed here by Ukrainian Premier Leonid Kuchma and representatives of the Ukrainian business circles. In the course of a frank and sharp dialogue, the prime minister noted, among other things, that the economic state of the country had not improved so far, unfortunately, although the situation was stabilised in industry over the past two months, and the authorities were able to arrest the catastrophic production slump, that is to avoid, in fact, an imminent national crisis.

"Economic relations with Russia are among our main economic problems and, in general, the very existence of Ukraine depends on them," Kuchma stressed.

The prime minister shared with the businessmen his views on the danger of a social upheaval in Ukraine, if inflation was not arrested or at least slowed down. "Nobody knows what forces will come to power then," he warned.

Russia 'Biggest Headache'

OW1202012293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1721 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Leonid Kuchma, Ukrainian Premier, has said that the economic relations with Russia give his Government the biggest headache. He told a conference of Ukrainian

entrepreneurs that in January not a gram of Russian gasoline has reached Ukraine in a breach of a commitment made by the Russian Government. The prices of Russian oil have not been settled while numerous Russian leaders would like to use an "oil whip" on Ukraine.

The Premier noted that the country's economic situation has not improved even though a halt had been put on the catastrophic plunge of production.

Kuchma described the social climate in Ukraine as "extremely tense" and admitted that an explosion was possible unless the Government managed to "stop the inflation or at least reduce its rate".

He called on the country's business community to cooperate with the Government in carrying through the reforms. The businessmen suggested setting up a Council of Business Circles under the Cabinet and an expert team of lawyers and economists which would help the Government in the wording of its decrees.

National Guard, Militia Join Forces in Dnepropetrovsk

PM1102133893 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By Gennadiy Klimov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Klimov voice over video of ranks of national guard members.] This is the first martial ritual of the mounting of the national guard regiment which took place not on the parade ground but in the center of Dnepropetrovsk. The guardsmen are going out on a joint patrol of the city streets with the militia: That is how the Supreme Soviet decision on functional changes to the legislative acts on the national guard is being fulfilled. The national guard is now faced with new tasks in maintaining public order and combating crime. The national guards' weapon is not sophisticated—a rubber truncheon—but the very presence of strong, trained boys on our streets in the evening and at night should cool the ardor of hooligans and criminals. They will be on duty with the militia in foot patrols and in automobiles. Many of these vehicles have been acquired using the funds of the oblast administration and of local enterprises. The rampaging of crime and the criminal elements' level of equipment leave no hopes of a rapid change to the situation, but by pooling their efforts the militia and national guard and the "berkut" [golden eagle] rapid deployment subunits can offer effective resistance. The joint details are undertaking the guard of the city.

Further on Strike of Miners in Donetsk Region

LD1102163093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1458 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Dmitrov (Donetsk region) February 11 TASS—The miners of three coal pits affiliated to the "Krasnoarmeyskugol" Association - the "Tsentralnaya", "Rodinskaya" and "Stakhanov" - are on strike for five days running. The strike was provoked by the government's and State Coal-Mining Committee's gross violation of the tariff agreement previously concluded with the miners. As a result of this violation, the earnings of miners this January dropped by 100 per cent as compared to the November figures. The strike is well-organised. The miners report to work, but refuse to descend into the mines. Only teams responsible for the safety of the workings and mechanisms remain on the job. This prompted some "coal officials" to claim that the strike was called off.

Ukrainian miners are following attentively the developments at "Krasnoarmeyskugol". The Republican Council of the Coal Workers' Union and the Independent Ukrainian Miners' Union have backed the fair demands of their comrades. They have adopted a decision to call a pre-strike alert at all the coal-mining enterprises of the republic. The initiative of the two trade unions was supported by leaders of strike committees in Lugansk and Donetsk regions. The Regional Council of Independent Sectoral Unions has also declared its support to the striking miners. If the government again refuses to start a constructive dialogue with the miners, an all-Ukraine token strike will be held on February 25.

ITAR-TASS has learned a short while ago that members of the Ukrainian government are to meet miners in Kiev on Friday. The general directors and economic managers of several coal associations have been invited to attend the meeting, along with chairmen of the two miners' unions—Konstantin Fesenko and Aleksandr Mril.

Energy Official on Fuel Situation, Need for Oil

LD1002102293 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] We will be fully provided for with coal and gas. The situation with oil is somewhat different, Vice Prime Minister Yuliy Ioffe told the news media. Ioffe said our state needs 40 million tonnes of oil to live more or less tranquilly. There are accords with Russia for the delivery of 20 million tonnes. We will extract a certain quantity of oil using Ukrainian oil-industry workers in Tyumen. Ioffe noted that several new oil pools have been [word indistinct] on the territory of Ukraine in recent years. The issue of how to take this oil is currently being resolved. Ukraine is looking not only toward Russia, but also to Bulgaria, Oman, and [word indistinct] oil extracting countries of the world.

Belarus

Latvia Ambassador Praises START I Ratification

LD1102164693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 2100 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Latvia has appraised highly the consistent policy of Belarus in achieving the status of a nuclear-free and neutral state which was apparent in the ratification by its parliament of a number of international legal acts which concern nuclear weapons, stated (Yanis Louniks), Latvian ambassador extraordinary plenipotentiary to Belarus, in a conversation with Aleksandr Sychev, deputy foreign minister of the republic.

Their meeting took place on the eve of the presentation of credentials by the Latvian ambassador to Belarus Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich. As was noted during the conversation, the relations between the two neighboring republics develop actively. At the end of the meeting, the sides discussed possible spheres of Belarusian-Latvian cooperation which, according to their mutual opinion, will become a guarantor of bilateral friendly relations.

Officers Refuse To Leave Belarus; Demand Housing

OW1202001193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1551 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 497 officers of the Russian military air division, together with their units, have refused to leave the Belarusian city of Lida for Russia. Belarusian Supreme Council Commission for Defense Deputy Chairman Leonid Privalov informed journalists that the officers have demanded guarantees that they will be provided with housing immediately upon their arrival in Russia. If this does not happen, they intend to stay in Lida and move into homes which will soon be constructed for officers of forces withdrawn from Central Europe.

In connection with these events, a special commission has been established in Belarus composed of members of parliament and representatives from the defense ministry which will also invite the participation of representatives of the Russian defense ministry.

Some 11,000 families of servicemen in the Belarusian army and 3,237 families of officers in the armed forces of the CIS are currently without guarantees of housing.

Military Unit Disbanded in Brest; Tanks Leave

LD1102165193 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The military in the border city of Brest are not needlessly expending their energy: within the framework of the planned reduction of the army an (?entire) military unit is being removed from there. The tanks which had already been removed from the armaments have driven through the city to the train station. The plan for the removal of the machinery has been coordinated with the local authorities. In order to strengthen security, officers took the place of driver-mechanics.

Defense Minister on Military Capabilities

OW1202060693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Interview with Deputy Defense Minister Pyotr Chaus by correspondent Marina Chernukha; place and date not given—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] After the collapse of the USSR, all of its former republics declared their intent to establish their own armed forces. Today, they are at different levels of military readiness. In this respect, Belarus has progressed further than many of the other former Soviet republics. Interfax correspondent Marina Chernukha sought more detailed information in an interview with Belarusian Deputy Defense Minister Petr Chaus.

"IF" [INTERFAX]: Belarus is coming close to establishing its own armed forces. How is the process going along?

CHAUS: The first thing was to create the necessary legal foundation. Parliament passed a group of laws creating the judicial basis for the establishment of the republic's armed forces. In particular, laws were passed on the armed forces, defense, the social support of servicemen, the order of military service, and military pensions. There is no such legislation in any other country in the CIS. It not only guaranteed the legal basis for military preparation, but also and particularly importantly, gave Belarusian servicemen social and psychological assurances.

"IF": What is the current situation in the division of the Soviet Union's military property?

CHAUS: There is currently a large number of servicemen and military equipment in the republic, since the Belarusian military command was one of the most important in the USSR. We have armored groups, missile forces, ground troops, and antiaircraft units. All of these formations were subordinated to the Soviet defense ministry and its commanders in Moscow, and Belarus had not connections to them whatsoever. They have now been placed at the disposal of the Belarusian defense ministry.

There have been negotiations with the Russian defense ministry and the Supreme Command of the United Armed Forces of the CIS, but one has to admit that they were not easy. This was primarily because in our view, there were too many auxiliary units attached to strategic nuclear forces and thereby withdrawn from the disposal of the Belarusian ministry of defense. For instance, they tried to convince us that paratroops should be considered strategic. Such an expansion of the way "strategic

forces" is understood was dangerous to the state's sovereignty. And this is not just our own position. The same opinion is held by other CIS countries, in particular by Ukraine and Moldova.

Now, according to an arrangement reached in Minsk, the same strategic forces have considerably fewer units attached to them than before. This suits us perfectly. Besides, Belarus cannot support armed forces which are too large. We got about 140,000 servicemen from the former armed forces of the USSR, but only about 70,000 will remain in service in the republic, that is, we have to reduce the size of the army by 50%. This is a painful process because it directly affects people's futures.

In order to make the officers' transition to civilian institutions easier, a servicemen's training and employment agency is being set up in Belarus. A few days ago, for example, we opened a business school for decommissioned officers.

We have also, jointly with the Supreme Council, the government, and representatives from local authorities, worked out a sophisticated approach to resolving social problems in the army. Now, before a military unit is stationed somewhere, questions surrounding accommodations and the employment of soldiers and their families after they leave the army are being worked out. The parliament has passed laws which stipulate an obligation to supply apartments to servicemen assigned to the reserves.

Of course, it is still too early to say that a smoothly-operating mechanism for resolving social problems has been established, but the authorities have confirmed their intention to do so.

"IF": Are there citizens of Belarus serving in the armies of other republics?

CHAUS: About 40,000 of our citizens served in the army of the USSR and are now located in various former Soviet republics. Many of them would now like to return to their motherland and continue serving in Belarus. This is an entirely lawful wish, but at the same time poses a social problem. Of course, if there are vacancies in the Belarusian army, those so wishing are transferred to posts in the republic. This, however, is not easy, considering that our armed forces already have to be reduced by half.

"IF": How did the swearing of loyalty oaths to Belarus proceed?

CHAUS: About six months before the fact, we informed all servicemen in Belarus of the necessity of taking such an oath, thus giving them the opportunity seriously to consider their answer. Those who took the oath are serving in the Belarusian armed forces without any kind of discrimination based on nationality. There is only one criterion here - military service.

"IF": What is happening with the Soviet military equipment in Belarus?

CHAUS: Part of the equipment, together with troops, is being withdrawn from the republic in accordance with our treaty with Russia. Another part is remaining in service with the Belarusian armed forces. Any equipment remaining in our country which contravenes CSCE [Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe] agreements will be destroyed or sold. There is a sufficient number of parties wishing to buy military equipment and supplies. Nearby countries, including the Baltic states, the countries of Eastern Europe, former Warsaw Pact member-states, and newly-formed states are asking Belarus to sell them such equipment. Because of international agreements, however, we cannot sell to all of them.

"IF": What is Belarus's position on strategic nuclear forces?

CHAUS: As of now, we are legally not a nuclear state. There are, however, still missiles with nuclear warheads in the republic. According to an agreement we signed, these weapons must be removed within seven years. Two points of view with respect to this point exist in the republic. Some deputies and soldiers are convinced that this deadline should be sooner. Others advise against haste, though not because they distrust Russia. Most likely just the opposite. Belarus understands Russia's needs and position well, and we hope that Russia understands us.

The world situation changed after the signing of the START II treaty. Of course, Russia will bear the greatest burden in maintaining nuclear forces. Furthermore, we cannot help but be worried about the U.S. position on nuclear weapons. How will the new administration handle itself? Will the American congress ratify the treaty? We, the servicemen, unfortunately cannot rule out the possibility that America has new types of missile technology. In comparison with other countries, then, their options are becoming much more numerous. One must wait and observe - will American policy be honest? Again, I want to emphasize that we trusted, and still completely trust Russia, and I hope that they trust us too. Otherwise, as they say, "it's not worth two cents" to us. But we must know whether our partners in nuclear disarmament have honest intentions.

Kebich Says Relations With Russia 'Priority'

LD1202112493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1038 GMT 12 Feb 93

[By BELINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Minsk February 12 TASS—Relations with Russia and other neighbours are a priority for Belarus, according to the republican prime minister who blasted the parliamentary opposition for calls to abandon relations with former Soviet republics.

"In our foreign policy strivings I believe it to be cardinal, and maybe of crucial importance, to strengthen ties and the union with Russia and other close neighbours",

Vyacheslav Kebich said in an interview published by several central Belarussian newspapers on Friday [12 February].

The parliamentary opposition calls to fully abandon old ties and "construct a new, but nobody knows which, fairy-tale temple", he said, adding that those who call to abandon relations with Russia and unite with Europe "do not explain how and by which means to secure our national interests there".

The collapse of industrial relations among former Soviet republics has already triggered many problems. If the situation is not improved it will result in new hardships, according to the prime minister who called to strengthen the Commonwealth of Independent States, coordinate decisions, respect mutual interests and help each other.

"This is the historic responsibility born by leaders of the independent states before their peoples", he said.

Yahorau on Lack of Financing for Combating Crime

WS1102125093 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Belarusian 29 Jan 93 p 5

[Interview with Minister of Internal Affairs Uladzimir Yahorav by RESPUBLIKA correspondent Uladzimir Abramovich under the "One Question from RESPUBLIKA" rubric; place and date not given: "We Need Money for Our Work"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] In May 1992, the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers adopted "The Program of Additional Measures for Combating Crime and Law Violations." According to this plan, RESPUBLIKA is publishing a "Counterattack - 92" rubric. What do you think of the effectiveness of this program? Is it worth continuing the elaboration of such programs? Or, are long-term programs perhaps more effective?

Minister of Internal Affairs Uladzimir Yahorav answers this question posed by RESPUBLIKA correspondent Uladzimir Abramovich.

[Yahorav] The adoption and implementation of "The Program of Additional Measures for Combating Crime and Law Violations" was rather productive. Different state departments managed to combine their activities.

The Army was of great help to us. I mean street patrolling. Though the Army patrol was mainly detaining the late privates, it helped greatly to maintain public order. The Customs Committee was of particular help to us. They started to consider our proposals. The officers of the Republican Committee for State Security have expanded their activities by becoming our close associates in many undertakings.

But the performed work was not always perfectly done. We need more extensive financial support. The money which we get from the state budget is minimal while our work becomes more and more intensified. But the program had foreseen a lot of necessary things for us, such as technical equipment, communication means, and material supply. If the good intentions of this program had been supported by real financing, all of us would have gained a lot.

I am grateful to RESPUBLIKA for an objective depiction of the fulfillment of this program.

Economic Court Adopts Resolution on Compensation of Losses

WS1102121393 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1037 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The plenum of the Belarusian Supreme Economic Court adopted a resolution "On Court Practice in Compensating Losses." This is the first systematic legal analysis in postsocialist Belarus which deals with the market principles of defining the amount of losses that result from the failure to carry out transactions, from the absence of property to be restored, and so on.

According to Aleksandr Kiselev, first deputy chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Economic Court, "the conceptual essence of this decision is that the price for commercial transactions must be based on the so-called free contract price of a good (work or service). The plenum supported the position of the government to introduce a 30 percent limit by which sale (wholesale) prices can exceed the prices fixed by the producer. This will not reduce the number of goods but will promote their imports. Belarusian speculators will lose all interest and this will reduce the number of artificial barriers. An opportunity for a direct dialogue between foreign sellers and the Belarusian population will emerge.

The resolution takes into account price determination. Thus, losses in foreign currency transactions will be determined by the official bank exchange rate of the ruble to respective currencies.

The resolution states that a bilateral agreement is the basis for foreign economic deliveries. For example, sale prices in the agreement on the deliveries of precious metals and diamonds signed with Russia this year are based on world prices. The latter are evaluated in rubles according to the official bank exchange rate of the Russian Federation for the given day. These circumstances will be taken into account in settling disputes on the compensation of losses.

Two Political Groups To Share BNDP Name

WS1202093793 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1035 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The former radical wing of the Belarusian National Democratic Party [BNDP] has held its conference. It had previously decided to use the BNDP name. The conference has elected the BNDP Supreme Council. Anatoliy Astapenka, leader of the radicals, has become its chairman.

The other wing of the former party, headed by Ales Apryshka, has decided that it will also use the BNDP name. From now on, two political groups whose relations are not very friendly will function under one name.

Fuel Shortage Leading to 'Emergency Situation'

PM1202125493 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By Lyudmila Vilyuga; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] It looks as though a tough war has been declared on the expenditure-based economy which has existed for so many years: The Belarusians, having expended 30 million tonnes of fuel last year, are now having to forget such luxury. Virtually the only supplier of oil—Russia—under the intergovernment contract is promising this year only 16 million tonnes and at a price higher than today's. The enforced thrift is so far leading to an emergency situation: The gas stations for private transport are empty and only special transport has the privilege of obtaining gasoline—even for Council of Ministers vehicles the limit is no more than 10 liters a day. The so-called dead residue in the reservoirs at the oil bases means the actual stoppage of the republic's enterprises. The forthcoming disruptions in the spring field work are already almost here, which has been noted at the Council of Ministers Presidium. Well, lack of preparedness for the new economic realities is turning into a war against themselves.

Moldova

Consultations With Dniester Postponed Until 15 Feb

OW1202132493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1135 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Another round of consultations on settling a conflict in Dniester between representatives of Moldova and Dniestrian self-governing bodies has been postponed by mutual consent for Monday [15 February]. An IF [INTERFAX] correspondent reports that one of the reasons for the postponement is the continuing picketing by women in Bendery, where talks are under way, of the buildings of the commandant's office and police department.

The pickets are demanding the removal of Moldova's police and investigators from the city.

Special Status for Dniester Does Not Mean Federalization

AU1102200793 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1500 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Bogdan Alexandru dispatch from Chisinau]

[Text] In an interview given today to Mexican Television, Mr. Mircea Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova, referred to the results of the Moldovan delegation's recent visit to Moscow. He said that Russia did not have any ulterior political goals when it signed the economic agreements between the two states. On the other hand, Mr. Snegur said that the 14th Russian Army will be withdrawn from Moldova's territory when the situation will be fully stable. He also said that granting a special legal status to the rayons on the left bank of the Dniester River is in no way tantamount to agreeing to the federalization of the republic.

Changing the subject, President Snegur said that the signing of the Paris Charter confirms Moldova's intention to align itself to the concept of European countries.

Answering questions on ways and means to overcome the parliamentary crisis, Mr. Mircea Snegur said that only the resumption of the Parliament's sessions will clarify the final viewpoints of various political factions.

Republic Prepared To Grant Concessions to Tiraspol

AU1102195393 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1707 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES 11/2/1993—Moldova can grant Transdniester the right to self-administration, on condition that the unity and integrity of the Republic of Moldova be kept intact, Anatol Taran, head of Moldova's delegation to a joint commission for a settlement of the conflict in the districts on the left bank of the Dniester told daily "OASTEA MOLDOVEI."

According to him the authorities in Chisinau are ready to grant certain concessions, such as the creation of a legislative assembly in the Dniester area, to elaborate laws for Transdniester which mustn't breach the principle of Moldova's integrity, a crucial element in the final document which Chisinau is going to forward to the delegation from Tiraspol.

Pro-Romania Opposition Issues Declaration

AU1102104993 Bucharest COTIDIANUL in Romanian 8 Feb 93 p 3

["Resolution of the Popular Christian-Democratic Front Rally on the Social-Political Situation in the Republic of Moldova," issued in Chisinau on 7 February: "So Help Us Good Lord!"]

[Text] The agro-nomenclature and inter-front [interfrontista] dictatorship has been established in the Republic of Moldova. The forces that until the start of the national liberation movement were responsible for denationalization actions and genocide on the occupied Romanian territories and supported the August 1991 coup are today trying to take revenge through a velvet coup, which

would ultimately lead to the confiscation of democratic achievements and the complete enslavement of the republic to Moscow.

The tone was set by President Snegur in his 24 December 1992 declaration, which marked the beginning of a tragic split of the Romanian population on the eastern side of the River Prut and within parliament, a split that resulted in the resignation of the four members of the presidium, among them parliament president Alexandru Mosanu.

On the basis of an antinational referendum, the declaration gave a free hand to the pro-imperial forces inside and outside the republic to take action and create the conditions to dismantle parliament—the only power still tempering President Snegur's dictatorial ambitions—and to apply the special plan to introduce a special juridical system of the pre-constitutional government in the Republic of Moldova. This system would make it easier for the president and the executive to implement their antinational policy of servitude to Moscow.

All this is taking place against the background of an unprecedented political and economic crisis. A considerable part of the republic's territory is controlled by Russia's 14th Army and the separatist forces. Five of the republic's citizens are in Tiraspol's jails and the legitimate and rightful bodies of the republic are taking no effective action to free them. There is no separation of power in the state. The population of the republic has been brought to the threshold of poverty and there is devastating corruption in the top structures of state power. A simple worker's monthly pay is $5, while a member of the Snegur clan—his son-in-law Artur Gherman—makes $11,000 per month. The illegally privatized national wealth is being auctioned and peasants are kept in the kolkhoz and sovkhoz gulags by the lords of villages. Those village lords make coalitions in parliament with the separatists fighting against the real representatives of the people's aspirations. In the eastern part of the republic there is virtually no border and no customs regulations, and the River Prut has become the second Berlin Wall in Europe. Finally, when fake Russian and Moldovan money has invaded the republic and completely destroyed the market.

Under these conditions, the participants in the rally of the Popular Christian-Democratic Front believe that it is necessary to urgently set up a block of all political and apolitical groups of a national-democratic orientation to form an opposition to the monstrous agro-nomenklatura and inter-front coalition and curb dictatorship.

We resolutely condemn President Snegur's antinational policy and ask him to abandon once and for all the idea of an anti-Romanian referendum through which he would disgrace himself before the whole world and would be cursed by the current and future generations of our nation. In a democratic and civilized state, such a president would be brought to court for the blood shed in vain, for the hatred and discord sown among brothers, or, in the best of cases, he would resign because of his inability to honor his obligations and guarantee stability and the territorial integrity of the state.

Taking the aforementioned things into consideration, we call for:

1. The release of political detainees Ilie Ilascu, Alexandru Lesko, Andrei Ivantoc, Tudor Petrov Popa, and Petru Godiac from Tiraspol jails.

2. The immediate and unconditioned withdrawal of the 14th Army from the republic's territory.

3. The reestablishment of law and order throughout the Republic of Moldova.

4. The establishment of a border and strict customs regulations in the eastern part of the republic.

5. The withdrawal from documents of signatures that join the Republic of Moldova to CIS structures.

6. The registration of the statute of Bessarabia's reactivated autonomous and old-style metropolitan sees, and persecution of clergymen and believers who belong to these metropolitan sees should cease.

7. The introduction of a national currency.

8. An increase in salaries, scholarships, and pensions.

9. An investigation into the secret plans to introduce a special pre-constitutional juridical regime in the Republic of Moldova, so that the architects of this secret plan to enslave the Republic of Moldova can be identified and called to account.

10. An investigation into the Seabeco-Moldova Limited Company and cases of corruption in state structures in general.

11. The urgent establishment of a commission with the participation of media representatives to investigate the issue of nuclear waste in which the Seabeco-Moldova Limited Company is involved.

12. The implementation of administrative-territorial reform.

13. The endorsement and implementation of a privatization program solely on the basis of the national currency.

14. Land to be allotted to peasants.

Fellow citizens,

The spring of 1993 is approaching. This time we have no flour for our Easter cake. We do not even have money for tablecloths. However, there is a lesson we have learned well without the communists, without the scum, and without phony idols. He who has ever hesitated only once in his political carrier should step aside. Whoever understands that a national liberation movement is not a hundred-meter race and is not prepared to accept any shameful compromise, should come with us!

So help us God!

Chisinau, 7 February 1993

Prime Minister Sangeli Discusses Outcome of Moscow Talks

OW1102192293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 11 Feb 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Prime Minister Andrei Sangeli, in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX, gave a positive appraisal of Moldovan-Russian negotiations held in Moscow recently. In his opinion, the most important among the agreements for 1993 signed by him and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is that on trade and economic relations, which provides for imports of raw materials for Moldova's industry and agriculture.

Sangeli said that, at the Moscow talks, Moldova had solved most of its principal economic problems. Now, he said, the republic's enterprises can work more efficiently. He expects production in Moldova to start going up in March.

The Premier also pointed out an agreement reached in Moscow on making more active efforts in working out a set of documents guaranteeing social and humanitarian rights for citizens of both states. The documents would, among others, include agreements on legal assistance in civil, family, and criminal cases, on the resettlement of refugees and guarantees for their rights, on the employment of and social security provisions for, Moldovan citizens in Russia and Russian citizens in Moldova, and on pensions.

"Such agreements would make life much easier for many thousands of citizens of both states," Sangeli said.

Russian Officers Conclude 'Familiarization Visit'

PM1102145193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Feb 93 p 3

[Russian Federation Defense Ministry Press Center report: "Military Experts' Trip to Moldova"]

[Text] A working visit to the Republic of Moldova has been carried out by a group of generals and other officers of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry. It was of the nature of a familiarization visit in connection with the appointment of Colonel General E. Vorobyev as head of the group of Russian military experts at the interstate talks with the Republic of Moldova, and did not envisage the holding of official talks or the signing of any documents.

The delegation held preliminary consultations with the leadership of the Moldovan Defense Ministry on a whole range of questions of mutual interest. A meeting was held with the adviser to the Dniester Moldavian Republic president on military questions.

During the visit the delegation met with representatives of the Joint Control Commission and the joint command of the peacemaking forces. The delegation expressed the opinion that it is essential to enhance the Joint Control Commission's influence in the danger zone on questions connected with the peaceful settlement of the situation in the Dniester Region of the Republic of Moldova.

The Russian Federation Defense Ministry is drawing up proposals on the questions which will be submitted at the next round of talks in Moscow at the end of February in the light of the results of the visit.

New Chairman of Parliament Sets Goals

AU1202092893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 9 Feb 93 p 5

[Commentary by Svitlana Chala from Chisinau: "Where Is the New Chairman Looking?"]

[Text] The deputies who voted, on 4 February, for Petru Lucinschi as new chairman of the Moldovan parliament are pinning their hopes for achieving civic peace upon his taking up the post.

In his policy statement, Lucinschi listed the following as parliament's urgent tasks: the adoption of laws on elections to organs of power at all levels and on the status of the Left Bank [of the Dniester] and the resolution of the problem of the Gagauz south. He emphasized that there exists a real possibility for resolving the conflict in the Dniester Region and that the point of view of those deputies who maintain that Moldova has lost the Dniester Region is wrong.

The new chairman's position regarding Moscow is unambiguous. He believes that it is necessary to develop ties with Russia.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Recognized Head of New Public Association

PM1102154793 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Feb 93 p 2

[Tleuzhan Yesilbayev report: "Support for Nazarbayev"]

[Text] The constituent conference of a new public association—the "People's Unity of Kazakhstan" [Narodnoye Yedinstvo Kazakhstana] Union—has been held in Alma-Ata. More than 230 delegates representing different ethnic groups from all oblasts of the republic took part in it.

The "People's Unity of Kazakhstan" Union intends to become a political organization that supports the consistent implementation reforms by the president of Kazakhstan, and to promote the formation in the republic of a democratic society with a socially oriented market economy and the assertion of the young state's real sovereignty. It supports political pluralism and rejects all forms of violence as a means of achieving political goals.

The conference discussed and adopted as its basis the program theses and bylaws of the union, and elected the leading organs of "People's Unity of Kazakhstan." S. Abdrakhmanov was elected chairman of the political council. Conference delegates unanimously recognized Nursultan Nazarbayev as leader of the union.

Prime Minister Returns From Hungary, Bulgaria

LD1102164393 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0900 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] In Sofia yesterday Kazakhstan Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko and Bulgarian Council of Ministers Chairman Lyuben Berov discussed a wide range of issues on bilateral cooperation. They stressed that both countries will base their relations on a treaty of friendship and cooperation which is to be signed during Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev's upcoming visit to Kazakhstan. In the near future the two countries are also expected to sign other agreements, including on trade and economic cooperation, on the elimination of double taxation, on mutual protection of investments, and on cultural and transportation cooperation. The two countries should create favorable conditions for bilateral trade and accelerate business contacts, including between private businesses.

Bulgaria is ready to sell Kazakhstan electronic equipment, cranes and other lifting machines, food processing equipment, and develop tourism in exchange for oil, cotton, wool, and metal.

The Kazakhstan Government delegation led by Sergey Tereshchenko on an official visit to Hungary and Bulgaria returned to Alma-Ata today.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Says Russia Providing 'Understanding,' 'Backing'

OW1102191893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1834 GMT 11 Feb 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev has told INTERFAX correspondent Nikolay Golovin in an exclusive interview that his republic had received "mutual understanding and backing" from Russia. He was speaking after talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin which took place in Moscow Wednesday [10 February].

Akayev pointed out that issues relating to the granting of long-term credit to the republic by Russia had been discussed and decided in a "positive" manner. The credit, he said, was needed to implement a number of emergency measures for the Kyrgyz economy, extending the list of goods exempted from tariffs for trade between the two nations, and maintaining quotas for oil products purchased by Kyrgyzstan from Russia.

The president pointed out that the development of relations with Russia was for Kyrgyzstan "one of the main directives of foreign policy." Akayev said that this was due to the need to "guarantee a firm base for foreign security, have access to a great culture, science and education, and, if the need arises, appeal for economic assistance." "Kyrgyzstan will be able to resolve the problems in these key areas with the assistance of one particular country—Russia," the president stressed.

"I am very thankful to Russia, which is always ready to render assistance to Kyrgyzstan despite its own political and economic difficulties," Akayev underlined. He added that he will do everything he can so that millions of Russians living in Kyrgyzstan "are not infringed of their rights and interests."

Akayev also pointed out that Kyrgyzstan would always aim to maintain good relations with the Central Asian republics, especially Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the most powerful of these.

Speaking about the situation in Tajikistan Akayev reported that Kyrgyzstan "undertakes certain measures to strengthen its borders with this country" in order to prevent "import of fundamentalist moods." Besides, 300 frontier guards were additionally sent to Tajik-Afghan border and the strength of Kyrgyz frontier contingent has been increased to 500 troops.

President pointed out that at its March session Kyrgyz parliament will consider the issues concerning Kyrgyzstan's participation in multinational peacekeeping

forces. Earlier Kyrgyzstan's Supreme Soviet twicely declined the requests of the Tajik leadership to send its servicemen to the neighboring country.

Akayev emphasized the necessity to preserve the ban on political activity of religious organizations in the republican laws. "Religion should be engaged with moral improvement of a human being and not intrude into state's affairs," President underlined.

Japanese Delegation Meets With President Akayev

LD1202115093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1100 GMT 12 Feb 93

[By KYRGYZTAG correspondent Albert Bogdanov]

[Text] Bishkek February 12 TASS—Specialists from the Central Asian Republic of Kyrgyzstan will be trained in Japan, according to Hidiaki Ueda, head of the Japanese governmental delegation, who had a two-hour meeting with President of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev on Friday [12 February].

Well-trained personnel is an important condition for a fruitful cooperation between the two countries. Only in this case the Japanese aid to Kyrgyzstan in 1993 will yield fruit, he told KYRGYZTAG.

Ueda, whose delegation tours Central Asian states of the former Soviet Union, said that several envoys from Japan had visited Kyrgyzstan and outlined programmes of economic assistance to the republic. Currently experts are engaged in joint research with the International Monetary Fund and other organisations of possibilities to restructure the economy of the republic. Cooperation is planned in health services, telecommunication, agriculture and various branches of industry, he said.

Joint Communique With Jordan Issued 11 Feb

JN1102180893 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] In a joint communique issued today in the Kyrgyzstan capital of Bishkek, Jordan and Kyrgyzstan have asserted their commitment to respect the sovereignty and integrity of each other's land, noninterference in domestic affairs, and the respect of the right of their people's choice of political, economic, and social options.

The communique was signed by [Jordanian] Deputy Premier and Minister of Transport Mr. 'Ali al-Suhaymat, and Kyrgyzstan Deputy [Prime Minister] Abdyrany Erkebayev.

Both sides expressed hope that the Middle East peace process would ultimately achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

They reiterated the necessity of implementing international legitimacy as regards the Palestinian question, particularly the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Meanwhile, [Jordanian] Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd delivered a message from His Majesty King Husayn to President Askar Akayev.

Tajikistan

Russian Minister Predicts Islamic Attack on Dushanbe

PM1102151593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Feb 93 p 1

[Sergey Ovsiyenko report: "Tajikistan Entitled To Expect Military Aid. But Political Decision Essential, Russian Defense Minister Thinks"]

[Text] The Russian defense minister had other aims in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan beside those envisaged for the visit by the official protocol. In Tashkent P. Grachev succeeded in coordinating the sides' positions on questions of military-technical cooperation, joint use of installations of strategic importance sited on Uzbek territory, and Russian troops serving in the republic and Uzbeks in Russia.

The defense minister's tasks were somewhat broader during his visit to Tajikistan, where a civil war is to all intents and purposes under way and whose borders have become open on both sides to armed groupings of Islamists, from Afghanistan among others.

Pavel Grachev did not hide the fact that Russia has interests in the region, interests that are primarily dictated by considerations of national security. Russia is willing to assist Tajikistan in forming its armed forces. It is planned to include in these forces a corps of several brigades, air force subunits, and air defense and special-purpose units. Russia will supply Tajikistan with arms and hardware—some by quota in line with the republic's percentage contribution to the armed forces' budget while part of the USSR. It will buy the rest of the arms at world market prices.

P. Grachev pointed out that groupings of militant Islamists in northeast regions of Tajikistan are urgently being trained in military camps under the leadership of instructors from Afghanistan among others. In the minister's opinion, by mid-March one can probably expect these forces to launch a large-scale offensive in the direction of Dushanbe.

Under the Tashkent collective security treaty Tajikistan is entitled to expect aid from the six CIS states that signed this treaty. Russian servicemen will only take vigorous action, the defense minister stressed, if the Russian political leadership decides to afford Tajikistan concrete military aid.

As for the 201st Russian division, it is still in its permanent bases on Tajik territory in accordance with

the Tashkent collective security treaty, and at the insistent request of the republic's leadership. The division will in the near future be reinforced with volunteer draftees and officers.

No Major Clashes Between Government, Opposition

LD1102130793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1203 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe February 11 TASS—No major clashes between the Tajik government forces and the opposition have been registered since Monday [8 February] in the Ramit Ravine situated 50 kilometres away from Dushanbe. Occasional shootings, however, take place there.

The government possesses enough forces to suppress the opposition in the ravine, but is does not want new casualties, Yakub Salimov, the Tajik interior minister, told TASS, adding that local population who became hostages of political ambitions of the opposition leaders is also staying in the ravine.

He regretted that the field commanders of the opposition refuse to cease resistance. The other day a 50-men strong group tried to break through to Dushanbe from the ravine to call on the local population to unite against the government. The opposition leaders seriously hope that a large-scale offensive on Dushanbe will take place in spring, Salimov said.

The opposition has also concentrated its forces in the Karategin mountainous region, close to Pamir, but the governmental forces are controlling the cities of Rogun and Obigarm situated on the border with Karategin, he added.

The Tajik government is ready to continue talks with the opposition and guarantees safety to everyone who will voluntarily surrender arms, the interior minister said.

Rebel Forces Say CIS Planes Involved in Fighting

LD1102230293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Representatives of rebel groups in Tajikistan reported that aircraft from the CIS Air Forces, deployed in Uzbekistan, have been helping the Tajik government. Tajikistan does not have its own Air Forces. BBC Radio reported that rebel leaders are expecting an attack from governmental troops soon. The report noted that the Tajik government confirmed that Russian servicemen are participating in operations against Tajik rebels.

Defense Ministry Official on Army Call-Up Plans

LD1202103293 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 0400 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Work is continuing for the call-up of young people to the National Army of Tajikistan. Colonel Umarov Saidmurod, acting head of the department for the affairs of the Defense Ministry, will talk about the tasks of the Armed Forces.

[Begin Saidmurod recording] The Defense Ministry is carrying out some organizational work to implement the provisions of the decree on the formation of the Defense Ministry. This has been done. The rules of the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Tajikistan have been formulated and the documents are being prepared for the approval of the Supreme Soviet. A lot of work is being carried out by the head commissariat to call up young people to the ranks of the armed forces from that category of young people mentioned in the Supreme Soviet decision on the call-up of citizens of the republic for military service in the ranks of the Armed Forces who were born between 1966 and 1975.

At the same time, the Defense Ministry is carrying out a great deal of work and here we have been assisted by the Supreme Soviet committee for legislation and human rights, particularly by Mahmuddov, the senior specialist of this committee who has been selected to formulate the draft laws of the Republic of Tajikistan regulating military service in our armed forces.

What are the tasks facing the armed forces? The main task is to provide security and peaceful working conditions for our people. The people must feel that the armed forces which are being formed will provide conditions for the creative labor of the people.

The second task arises from the first and that is the education and training of the personnel who are being called up to the army.

I would like to report to all radio listeners that this evening Shishlyannikov, Aleksandr Vladimirovich, defense minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, will appear live on television. He will try to answer all questions of radio listeners and television viewers concerning the armed forces of the Republic of Tajikistan. [end recording]

Weapons Confiscated From Various Tajik Groups

PM1102124893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By A. Samoletov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Samoletov voice over video of display of confiscated weapons] The weapons confiscated from various groupings include assault rifles and grenade throwers made in China, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other countries. One channel through which they come is the border. Almost every day the border guards apprehend various "hunters" from the local population trying to establish contacts with the other side. But as regards the weapons going into use during combat operations, their provenance is very obscure. And if large-caliber machineguns previously on the turrets of armored personnel carriers and infantry fighting vehicles are already

being used against the government forces fighting in the region of the Ramit Gorge then it is entirely likely that soon rocket launchers of the Alazan and Grad types, which have already taken part in previous battles, will appear, and after them mines too. With the advent of spring this civil war, being constantly fed, could turn into a major conflict drawing into its vortex ever new forces and very similar to the Afghan war.

Official Tries To Negotiate Status of Refugees

LD1102232593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 11 Feb 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] After a meeting with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who recently returned from Tajikistan, Safarov, the leader of the People's Front of Tajikistan, has tried to negotiate with Afghan authorities on normalizing the situation in the refugee camps, to which arms are still being brought. News agencies reported today that Afghan Deputy Defense Minister General Dostam is willing, for his part, to help Tajik refugees stranded on the Afghan side of the broder to return home. But the difficulty of the operation is that certain groups, both on the Afghan and Tajik sides of the border, are in sharp confrontation with the official government, while the bulk of the refugees are located in the conflict area.

Turkey Grants Credits for Modern Technology Purchases

LD1202094693 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 11 feb 93

[Text] Economic contacts between Tajikistan and Turkey are strengthening. Turkey agreed to provide our republic with commercial credits totalling $50 million. This will be used to purchase various products and modern technology in Turkey that our national economy urgently needs. Turkish Airlines Company flights will soon start on the Dushanbe-Ankara-Istanbul route. Turkey will also assist with international flights to our capital. The Turkish side will cover the costs for training in Turkey by Tajik pilots in the laws of international aviation. Turkey will also modernize Dushanbe airport and will instal a [word indistinct] antenna in our republic. Currently a Turkish telephone company is drafting a scheme to improve the quality of the Dushanbe telephone network.

Uzbekistan

New Minister Will Bring Uzbek Policy 'Up to Date'

MK1202092393 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Feb 93 p 3

[Semen Novoprudskiy article: "Uzbekistan. New Minister's New Policy: 39-Year-Old Sadyk Safayev Becomes One of the Youngest Foreign Ministers in the CIS Countries"]

[Text] The appointment of 39-year-old Sadyk Safayev to the post of foreign minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan was not unexpected. He has for a long time been considered one of the best educated men in the Cabinet of Ministers. His track record includes a spell at Harvard, the job of Uzbekistan's first deputy minister of foreign economic relations, and participation in talks with Germany and Switzerland. The new minister speaks three foreign languages. His appointment is clearly intended to bring Uzbekistan's foreign policy "up to date."

The advent of Sadyk Safayev to the Foreign Ministry marks the end of the initial, familiarization period in the country's foreign policy. Uzbekistan has been admitted to all the world's most important political organizations—the United Nations, the CSCE, the Nonaligned Movement; it has achieved recognition of its independence; and it has established diplomatic relations with dozens of states. Now it has to settle down in the world, determine its main policy lines, and seek allies. Judging by his first interview, Sadyk Safayev sees the aim of the new policy as being to inform the world community more fully about the events taking place in Uzbekistan and to make Uzbekistan more open to the world community.

In the new minister's view, the country's internal stability could prove to be Uzbekistan's foreign policy trump card. It is this circumstance that could be the basis for attracting foreign capital and will enable Uzbekistan to play a relatively active role in the world. The new minister has not yet expressed his views on Uzbekistan's foreign policy priorities, but judging by recent events three main avenues are already clear. First, Central Asian regional cooperation; second, closer integration into the Asian world (with the help of Turkey and Pakistan); and, third, collaboration with the CIS countries, especially Russia. In addition, Uzbekistan will certainly continue to play an active role in seeking a final settlement to the situation in neighboring Tajikistan. The situation is that as yet Uzbekistan has virtually no external enemies, and now has to take its place in a multifaceted world.

Judging by the new appointment, Uzbekistan wants to have a notable, prominent figure at the head of its foreign policy department. But allowances must be made for eastern and purely Uzbek traditions. In his interviews Sadyk Safayev invariably cites President Islam Karimov, who, in his view, will remain a key figure in determining Uzbekistan's priorities in both domestic and foreign policy.

Agreement Signed With Russia on Standardization

LD0902144393 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Excerpt] An agreement has been signed between the governments of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation on cooperation in the area of standardization, metrology, and certification. Entry into the world economic community and the aspiration for production of competitive goods requires single principles of assessing the quality of output. [passage omitted]

Armenia

Two to Three Days Needed To Repair Gas Pipeline

NC1102161693 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] A section of the temporary gas pipeline to Armenia was destroyed by an explosion near the village of (Tresh-Nuvanlu) in the Marneulskiy Rayon of Georgia at 0430 this morning.

Vladimir Manoyan, head of the Armenian Government Press Service, said that it will take two to three days to repair the pipeline. Yervand Zakaryan, Armenian deputy minister of energy and fuel, has gone to the site of the incident.

ARMENPRES reports that Acting Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan chaired an extraordinary meeting of the Republican Staff for Operational Administration today to discuss the situation. The pipeline enters Armenia through Georgia. A plan was adopted to deal with the immediate effects of the accident and to organize repair work. Ways of transporting and distributing fuel also was discussed. Bakeries, certain food producing enterprises, pumping stations, hospitals, and public transportation will be operating. Certain other enterprises crucial to the Republic's economy also will be operating.

Thermal Stations Stop Generating Power

NC1102203593 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1830 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Following the blowing up of the gas pipeline in Georgia, a grave situation faces our republic once more. The thermal power plants—which had resumed operations just a few days ago after receiving gas through a temporary pipeline laid following the explosion of the main pipeline—again have stopped generating power. The hydroelectric plants again are shouldering the burden for the thermal power plants, but they can generate only a small amount of the required power.

The Armenian Energy and Fuel Ministry Press Service reported that power currently is being supplied only to vital enterprises, and that the supply of power to the population will be terminated for a certain period.

Azerbaijani Attacks Reportedly Halted in Karabakh

NC1102182093 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service has informed us that the defensive positions near Vahan and [placename indistinct] in Krasnoselskiy Rayon were shelled on the night of 10-11 February. The night also was tense in Tavushskiy Rayon. Nerkin-Karmiragpyur, Aygepar, and Movses in the rayon were shelled. There are no reports on casualties.

Voskepar in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon was shelled by tanks and howitzers at 0200 this morning. No one was killed, but the shelling caused material damage.

Armen Dulyan, head of the Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service, also said that a car exploded after it hit a mine while travelling from Voskepar to [placename indistinct]. The driver and passenger were hospitalized.

Relative calm prevailed last night and this morning in Armenia's other border regions.

The situation in Karabakh: In an effort to regain the positions they have lost over the last few days, the Azerbaijani armed formations constantly have been attacking the villages in Mardakertskiy Rayon, which the Armenian self-defense detachments control. The Azerbaijani armed formations are being supported by additional troops and military hardware brought to the Mardakertskiy battlefront. KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY cites self-defense forces headquarters as reporting that the Azerbaijanis launched a large-scale attack on Kochogot the night of 10 February. The Armenian freedom fighters again halted the enemy's attack. The enemy retreated, leaving more than 50 dead soldiers on the battlefield. Two Armenian freedom fighters were killed. The battles continue.

Fierce fighting also took place near Vaguas on the night of 10 February. The village's defenders successfully repulsed the enemy's attacks. There are no reports on Armenian casualties.

The Azerbaijani armed formations also shelled Mekhmana. Five Armenians were killed. The village's defense detachment returned fire and silenced the enemy.

Having failed on the battlefield, the Azerbaijani side is trying to make up for its losses by opening artillery fire on settlements. Chartar and Berdashen in Martuninskiy Rayon were shelled from Fizulinskiy Rayon on the night of 10 February. One person died and another was injured in Chartar. An 18-year-old girl was killed in Berdashen. [words indistinct]

Relative calm prevails in the Lachin humanitarian corridor.

Iran To Continue Peacemaking Efforts in Karabakh

OW1002202693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1945 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Iranian Charge d'Affairs ad Interim in Armenia Akhmad Sobkhani [name as received] declared at a press conference in Yerevan that Iran is ready to continue its peace-making efforts to settle Armenian-Azeri conflict despite the fact that certain political forces disrupted this mission some time ago.

He expressed his hope that in the near future Iran will be able to undertake more active efforts in this direction.

Iran started to fulfill mediator efforts to settle the Karabakh conflict last spring. At that time Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his deputy Mahmud Va'ezi accomplished several shuttle visits to Baku and Yerevan. On May 8, 1992, leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Iran met in Tehran. However, agreements reached at this meeting were not implemented due to the activization of hostilities in conflict zone just the next day after the meeting.

Official Criticizes Turkey's Stand on Karabakh

MK1102095493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Feb 93 p 3

[Letter to the editor from Ashot Melik-Shakhnazarov, special adviser to the Armenian Foreign Minister: "Armenian Foreign Ministry Sets the Record Straight"; signed in Moscow on 6 February]

[Text] Following the publication in your newspaper on 2 February 1993 of an interview with Vulkan Vural, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Turkish Republic to Russia, that bears on some aspects of the foreign policy pursued by the Republic of Armenia, I would ask that, in accordance with accepted practice, you publish the following clarifications.

1. The ambassador states that underlying the settlement of the Karabakh conflict "should be the principle of respect for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity." This creates the false impression that Armenia is encroaching on some part of Azerbaijan's territory. What is actually happening is that the Karabakh Armenians are fighting for their natural rights, primarily the right to life and the right to continue living in the land of their forefathers. Moreover, the ambassador insistently singles out only one of the ten principles of the Helsinki Act, although this document, which was signed by Turkey, states that all these principles are of "paramount importance" and must be "uniformly and consistently applied in the interpretation of each of them, taking the others into account." These include peoples' right to self- determination, respect for human rights, and the nonuse of force. The forcible suppression of the rights of the Karabakh Armenians in response to their civilized declaration of will has led to the current bloody confrontation between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan, and it is difficult to expect that the much-desired peace can be achieved without negotiations between the conflicting sides.

2. The ambassador says that he regards Azerbaijan's demand for the withdrawal of "Armenian troops from the Azerbaijani district of Lachin" as well-grounded. It is common knowledge, however, that the so-called Lachin corridor, which is six km long, is controlled not by "Armenian troops" but by the self-defense forces of the Nagorno- Karabakh Republic. It would also be appropriate to recall that placing that corridor under control was a measure that had to be taken as a result of the four-year total blockade of Nagorno- Karabakh and artillery shelling of Stepanakert airport, which is the last lifeline linking the Karabakh population with the outside world. While the Karabakh problem still remains unresolved, the Lachin corridor, which was rightly called "the road of life," is the only alternative to starvation for the population of Nagorno- Karabakh.

3. The ambassador also contends that the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Armenia is possible only if "Armenia is committed to a peaceful settlement of this problem." The world community knows that Armenia advocates a peaceful solution to the Karabakh problem, and, as a first step, an immediate cease- fire, but in contrast to the Azerbaijani side, it does not set any preconditions.

It is surprising that an official diplomatic representative of the Turkish Republic, which aspires to the role of neutral intermediary, should be putting forward preconditions to Armenia. This, regrettably, places Turkey firmly on the side of one of the conflicting parties.

Azerbaijan

Military Coup Attempt in Baku Reported

NC1102151993 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Today's press published information on the attempted military coup in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku on 10 February. According to various press reports, the coup was organized by Azerbaijani Defense Minister Rakhim Gaziyev.

The Azerbaijani service of Radio Liberty reported this morning that President Elchibey's Presidential Guard occupied the building housing Baku's State Radio and Television Company and placed guards everywhere. According to Radio Liberty's Baku correspondent, machine guns have been positioned on the roofs of neighboring buildings which house the Radio and Television Company. The radio also reported that these precautionary measures were taken by Elchibey following the statement issued by the Azerbaijan People's Front [APF] Executive Committee, and in particular following the rally organized by the APF (?against the administration).

According to Baku Radio, Elchibey returned from his visit to Gyandzha yesterday, apparently to prevent a military coup.

Guseynov Accused of Treason

NC1102170793 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1304 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Baku, 11 Feb (ASSA-IRADA)—Azerbaijan People's Front [APF] accuses Suret Guseynov the former representative plenipotentiary of president of Azerbaijan

to Karabakh, for treason and demands the military procurator's office to consider his actions.

As the resolution of APF Executive Committee says, he transferred part of Azerbaijani military forces from front-line in northern part of Karabakh to the town of Gyandzha. It is supposed that only this was the reason of large Armenian attack in this zone which began on February 5. Besides it was rumoured in the Republic as if S. Guseynov intended to organize coup d'etat with the help of these military formations. "I have no ground to value actions of Suret Guseynov, commander of corps, as an attempt of coup d'etat," Panakh Guseynov, state secretary of Azerbaijan, said at today's press- conference. "Competent bodies will investigate his order on transferring the unit of military forces to Gyandzha," he pointed out.

People Rally in Baku

LD1102192193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By correspondent V. Nakhysh; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Due to the economic and political crisis in Armenia, the latest escalation of the war in the Karabakh has destabilized the situation in Baku, too. The buildings of the television and other state institutions were taken under guard, because sabotage and attempts to destabilize the political situation in the republic have taken place in the city.

In this connection, at a rally near the Popular Front building, those gathered voiced anxiety over the situation on the front. But all is quiet on the front. The offensive by the Armenian expedition corps has been halted. At the moment, the warring sides are in their initial positions.

As far as information regarding combat successes of either the other side is concerned, it is necessary to take into acount that these successes are taking the lives of dozens and hundreds of completely innocent people.

'External Forces' Blamed

OW1102201793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1932 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azeri State Secretary Guseynov said, "External forces were planning to destabilize the situation in Baku and the rest of Azerbaijan a few days ago." He told reporters at a briefing in Baku that the Azeri authorities possess information to that effect.

The law-enforcement bodies were reinforced, Guseynov said, and the Azeri leadership has full control of the situation.

He said, "It was precisely on those days that Armenia escalated its aggression against Azerbaijan."

Meanwhile, sources in the Azeri Defense Ministry said they had information that some units of the 128th Motorized Infantry Regiment of the Russian Seventh Army stationed in Armenia took part in the Armenian offensive of February 5 and 6.

Ter-Petrosyan Expected To Announce New Cabinet

OW1102185393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1834 GMT 11 Feb 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan is continuing consultations with the republic's political parties and movements in regards to reshuffling the Cabinet. In the words of the president's close advisers, the composition of the new Cabinet will, most probably, be announced by the end of this week.

Along with the Cabinet members, the President is also assessing candidates to the post of the republic's prime minister which has remained vacant since February 2 when Khosrov Arutyunyan had to resign.

Among the most probable candidates to this post, one of them being acting head of government 34-year-old Grant Bagratyan, are the names of several other well-known reform-oriented economists. Local observers are also including in the list of probable candidates Armenia's former Communist Party leader Demirchyan, while, they admit, the chances that the president would nominate him to this post are minimal.

During the consultations, some of the parties say it could be advisable at this stage for Armenia to adopt the so-called "Russian option" of 1991-1992, when Boris Yeltsin was combining the offices of the country's president and head of government. This view is shared by several activists in Armenia's most influential national movement which, in the opinion of many observers, is often referred to as a "presidential party."

The analysts from the president's inner circle, however, are not sure that such an outcome would be the best under the conditions of intensifying activities of the republic's radical opposition, the latter referring to Khosrov Arutyunyan's resignation as a "coup."

IF [INTERFAX] Note: "Armenian Intellectuals Union" made its accusation in its public statement on Wednesday. According to the statement, the president "took advantage of the absence of any legal premises and, in capitalizing on favorable balance of forces in the parliament," is concentrating in his hands almost "all the leverage of executive power." The "Intellectuals

Union" insists that Armenia come back to the parliamentary rule, as a "more democratic power system." Until then, the "Intellectuals Union" proposes to form an interim government. On February 5-6, the opposition staged mass rallies in front of the presidential residence. The participants of the rally demanded immediate presidential and parliamentary elections.

Armenian Statement on Bridge Explosion Denied

NC1202073293 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The Armenian Presidential Press Service issued a statement on 9 February refuting the disclosure made by the Azerbaijan presidential press secretary that Armenia was involved in the destruction of the railway bridge in Kazakhskiy Rayon. The statement was apparently related to the disclosure made by the Azerbaijan Presidential Press Service on 8 February, which said: The railway link between Georgia and Azerbaijan was cut in the Savully locality in Akstafa Rayon at about 0300 on the morning of 8 February. According to initial reports, sabotage has not been ruled out. An investigation has been launched into the incident.

Obviously, the disclosure made no accusation against Armenia whatsoever. Therefore, the Armenian Presidential Press Service's unfounded statement before the investigation is concluded created the impression that its objective was different. Considering the failure of Armenia's effort to blame Azerbaijan for the explosion in the natural gas pipeline in Marneuli Rayon on 2 February, the statement can be described as an effort to disseminate incorrect information or as a face-saving step by Levon Ter-Petrosyan's Presidential Press Service in its ugly propaganda campaign against Azerbaijan.

Shelling Kills 9 in Karabakh; New Armenian Attacks

OW1102171993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1551 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijani shelling of Armenian villages in the Martunin and Mardakert regions of Nagorno-Karabakh Wednesday [10 February] has resulted in the death of nine people, including a twelve-year-old girl, INTERFAX was informed in Yerevan.

The Yerevan sources said that the Azerbaijani units were attempting to regain ten settlements in the Mardakert region which had been lost February 5-6. An attack was launched on the village of Kchokhut Wednesday, but this was repulsed. The Yerevan sources claim that 50 Azerbaijanis were killed.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry, however, has reported fresh attack attempts by the Armenians in the Mardakert region, particularly on the Sarsang reservoir. Two Armenian armoured personnel carriers were eliminated. The Armenians also shelled the town of Agdam on the Karabakh border. Victims and damage was reported.

Baku says that Armenian forces had, after shelling the Azerbaijani regional center of Kelbajar with multiple rocket launchers, entered the Kelbajar region both from the direction of Armenia and Karabakh. The Azerbaijani army countered the enemy and inflicted "significant losses" both in human terms and in terms of military hardware.

Azerbaijani artillery foiled an attempt to bring 30 tank trucks containing fuel into Karabakh from Armenia by the Lachin corridor, the defense ministry said. 4 of the trucks caught fire.

Attacks in Mardakertskiy Obstructed

NC1102204493 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The Azerbaijan Defense Ministry Analytical Information Center's communique reads:

After obstructing the enemy attack in Agderinskiy [Mardakertskiy] Rayon, the Azerbaijan military subunits have broadened their counter-operations to repress the occupationist units. As we reported yesterday, Yayidzhy has been liberated from the enemy and placed under control. The Azerbaijan National Army units captured yet another height in the operational zone at about 2200 last night.

Our troops occupied several positions during the recent clashes in Khodzhavendskiy Rayon. On 9 February, the enemy launched an attack using 12 tanks and several infantry units to retake the positions they had lost in the clashes. Our troops were forced to retreat from the Mergiztepe Height during the two-day clashes. They continued to fight, however, and inflicted many casualties on the enemy. They also destroyed several military vehicles.

The fighting is continuing along Azerbaijan's border. Our tanks yesterday fired on the areas controlled by the Armenians in and around Mullalar in Lachinskiy Rayon. They destroyed the Oganes (?group). Gadzhavuz in Tauzskiy Rayon, Kokhne Kyshlakh in Akstafa Rayon, and Kushchu Ayrum and Medzhan in Kazakhskiy Rayon were fired on last night from Armenia. Meanwhile, Chullukyshlakh in Zangelanskiy Rayon was attacked from Armenia's Megrinskiy Rayon. Our troops, who carefully guard our state border, have foiled all the enemy's attacks.

(Aghbir) in Zangelanskiy Rayon, [placename indistinct] in Kazakhskiy Rayon, and the territory of Fizulinskiy Rayon were fired on today with various types of arms. The situation in the other disputed areas was peaceful last night.

Ambassador Says Russia Not Seeking New Interstate Union

NC1102213793 Baku AZERTAC in Azeri 1316 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Baku, 11 Feb (AZERTAC)—In an interview with Baku-based AZADLYG newspaper, Russian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Valter Shonia has said: Russia has no intention of pressuring the former Soviet republics into joining any sort of interstate institution. It also will not obstruct their efforts to form a union, he added.

It is not discounted that this statement was made in consideration of the future development of Russian-Azerbaijani relations and to allay concerns felt in the republic. Certain political observers believe Russian-Azerbaijani relations are contingent upon Azerbaijan's ties with the CIS.

The ambassador noted that Azerbaijan and the other Caucasian republics occupy an important position in Russia's policy on the region and in the Near East. He said: Traditionally, our states have had close political and cultural relations. For that reason, maintaining good relations with Azerbaijan is a necessity for Russian foreign policy. After all, Azerbaijan is one of the countries of the Caspian Sea Basin and occupies a favorable geopolitical position.

Adviser Expects Local Currency To Replace Ruble

OW1102193293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 11 Feb 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "A complete transfer to a national monetary unit, the manat, can take place naturally without announcement of monetary reform," Vakhid Akhundov, state adviser on economy, declared in his interview with INTERFAX. He reported that the republic has not received a single ruble from Russia since the beginning of this year; bank emission is being accomplished at the expense of manat. According to Akhundov, this situation will inevitably speed up the process of ruble's "washing away."

First Vice Premier Vakhid Akhmedov reported that today the republic has 1 billion, 200 million manats at its disposal. 18 more billion will be delivered from France, where the Azeri money is being printed, by the end of March. An informed source in the Cabinet reported to INTERFAX that in the near future republic's leadership plans to independently print its own currency in Azerbaijan. Special equipment to print banknotes and other securities will be procured in Federal Republic of Germany in the frame work of this program. $12-15 million will be allocated for this purpose. According to the above-mentioned source, at present Azerbaijan is negotiating with the German firm "Man Miller." It is worth to remind that republic has spent $17 million to produce the first portion of manats in France.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Warns of Arms Shortage on Abkhazian Front

OW1102171393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1548 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze told the Georgian parliament on Thursday [11 February] that the shortage of weapons was a cause of Georgia's set-backs on the Abkhazian front. "If we had enough weapons, we could form up 10,000 to 15,000-strong units consisting of Abkhazian residents," he said. Any military adventure would be doomed then, he added. To obtain armaments legally, we must complete the talks with Russia, he said.

He also pointed out that according to reliable sources, in the Gudauta region Abkhazians have concentrated a large contingent which intends to launch an offensive on Sukhumi. Replenishment has been sent to Sukhumi and Ochamchira, he added.

He also announced that there are forces which are trying to destabilize the situation in Georgia. "These forces will fail to attain their goals because the people trust their leaders," he said.

He also urged to put an end to crime and to attacks on Russian servicemen. These attacks are carried out by Georgian armed formations, not by civilians, he noted. "Such actions may lead Georgia to a catastrophe. Georgia must not act barbarically in front of the world," he said. He also announced that the extraordinary measures to combat crime, taken in Tbilisi, will be used in the whole of Georgia.

[In a related item carried in the same INTERFAX transmission, as received via Tokyo KYODO at 1548 GMT on 11 February, INTERFAX reports that the Georgian parliament has begun discussing "a draft law on the purchase, storage and use of firearms by ordinary citizens in the republic." The 80-word report adds: "INTERFAX has been informed that the debate was heated. The Deputy Zurab Zhvania, for example, claimed that the lawmakers had not taken the role of the state into account and that it was the state which should be protecting its citizens. He considered that the adoption of the law in its present form would legalise banditry in Georgia." INTERFAX concludes by saying proponents of the law maintain "the state should not regulate what a citizen could own."]

Force Buildup in Sukhumi Denied

LD1102233193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2100 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] IPRINDA reports that Eduard Shevardnadze has issued a decree on strengthening the Sukhumi area defenses by proposing the mobilization of reservists. Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Abkhazia Supreme Soviet, has rejected Shevardnadze's statement that a concentration of Abkhazian forces was under way in the Sukhumi area.

Meanwhile, according to an announcement by the duty officer of the main headquarters of the Georgian military command in Sukhumi, Abkhazian formations located on the other side of the Gumista river launched artillery and mortar attacks on several apartment buildings in Sukhumi.

Russian Military Unit Attacked in Abkhazia

LD1202113293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1053 GMT 12 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Ostanin and Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow February 12 TASS—A group of unidentified people opened submachine-gun fire on the military compound of the Ochamchir Brigade of coast guard warships, ITAR-TASS learnt at the press service of Russian border guard troops this Friday [12 February]. The attackers fled after a border guard patrol returned fire. There were no casualties among border guards.

Another shell exploded over the past 24 hours on the grounds of the Army seismic laboratory in Eshery, Abkhazia, guarded by Russian paratroopers, despite a statement made by Georgian parliament speaker Eduard Shevardnadze (aired by Russian Television on Thursday) who alleged that previous reports on the laboratory's shelling by Georgian artillery were false.

ITAR-TASS learnt at the press centre of the Russian Defence Ministry that the incident took place during an artillery duel between Georgian and Abkhaz troops. The shell was fired by the Georgian side.

Luckily, there were no casualties among Russian troops. Fire was not returned. Press centre officials were doubtful that shelling was accidental, since it was the third case in February, and present-day artillery pieces have perfect sight systems.

Ministry Asks Russia To Counter New Contingent

AU1202112793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Here is a statement from the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On 11 February, the Ostankino TV Company news program [word indistinct], quoting NEZAVIZIMAYA GAZETA, broadcast that the Caucasian Peoples Confederation [CPC] is forming a 400-strong armed contingent to be made up of not only representatives of the North Caucasian peoples and Cossacks, but also of the (?Chechen) diaspora from Turkey, Syria, and Jordan. The aim of this contingent is to cross the Russian-Georgian border and join the Abkhaz separatists.

In this respect, Aleksandr Chikvaidze, Republic of Georgia foreign minister, received (Arkhipov), Russia's charge d'affaires in Georgia, and told him the following: If this corresponds to reality, the creation of this group is aimed at undermining Russian-Georgian relations and delivering a blow to Russian-Georgian negotiations, at which significant shifts have been achieved, and is directed against the establishment of good neighborly relations between us. We call upon the Russian leadership to take all necessary measures to prevent this contingent from crossing the Russian-Georgian border. The appearance of this illegal military formation on Georgian territory will naturally arouse the justified indignation of not only Georgia but also the international community, and will be evaluated as armed intervention from Russian territory against a sovereign state. I express the hope that the Russian leadership will adopt the appropriate measures in order to prevent aggression and will uphold the fundamental principles of the agreement reached in Moscow on 3 September 1992 concerning the territorial integrity of Georgia that was signed by the heads of both countries.

Russian Troops in Adzharia 'Remain Cool and Composed'

PM1102144393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Feb 93 p 1

[Russian Federation Defense Ministry Press Center report: "Preventive Measures"]

[Text] Reports of possible provocation against Russian troops and military installations in Adzharia [Georgia] by certain illegal armed groups have appeared in some organs of the mass media.

In this regard the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff states that as of now the situation concerning Russian troop units in the region is calm on the whole. However, the troops possess all necessary means to thwart any illegal actions and attempts to harm servicemen and members of their families or encroach upon weapons, combat equipment, or property, whatever the source of such actions. The protection of military facilities has been stepped up, the approaches to arms and munition depots have been mined, mobile armored groups have been set up, and collaboration between the command and local authority organs has been organized. The servicemen remain cool and composed and are getting on with their planned combat training.

Defense Minister Dismisses Reports of Planned Military Coup

LD1102224893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2132 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By a Georgian news agency correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi February 12 TASS—Georgian Defence Minister Tenghiz Kitovani described reports that a military coup is being masterminded in the republic, which appeared beyond Georgia's borders, as "fabrications by the former president's supporters who try to put military leaders in opposition to the republic's parliament and head of state."

In an interview with the Georgian news agency, Kitovani contended that "some circles of the opponents of Eduard Shevardnadze in Russia are prodding the supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia's return to power to this provocation."

According to reports at point, the conspiracy is alleged to "be masterminded by some top military men jointly with political circles who oppose the present leadership of the republic and reactionaries from the Russian Defence Ministry's main intelligence department."

Kitovani rejected arguments which, in the opinion of the reports' authors, bear witness to preparations for a coup: eight tanks that were withdrawn from Sukhumi on February 7 are unsuitable for combat operations and the Loti Kobaliya group to which they were allegedly handed over "does not represent a force in this region."

"Zviad Gamsakhurdia carries on the struggle for his return to the 'throne,' but Georgian troops are loyal to the present leadership and will not allow unrest both in western Georgia and in the republic as a whole," Kitovani said.

Estonia

Laar: Government To Continue Efforts for Open Market

OW1102134293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1211 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian Government advocates the adoption of an anti-monopoly law and intends to become the guarantor of successful development of market relations in Estonia, Prime Minister Mart Laar told the newspaper HOMMIKULEHT on Thursday. Estonia will continue its advancement towards an open market and pursue the policy of open and liberal market economy," he said. [quotation marks as received]

Speaking about ways of protecting the internal market, Mart Laar said that the government will increase subsidies to the exports of agricultural produce and broaden contacts with the states pursuing a dumping policy.

Touching upon trade with Finland in this connection, he noted that Estonia's agricultural market "goes beyond the limits of the bilateral agreement on free trade." He also said that if Finland raises customs barriers blocking the Estonian produce, Estonia will have to carefully weigh its policy in relation to that state.

Mart Laar stated that a working group will be set up next week to draft measures to attract foreign capital to Estonia.

Legislature Approves Language Test for Citizenship

WS1102151793 Tallinn BNS in English 1423 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 11, BNS—The Estonian Parliament resoundingly approved the language test requirements for persons applying for the Estonian citizenship.

The law, which passed 56-4 with 10 abstentions, requires an applicant to understand information concerning the everyday life. Some details and relations between the sentences may remain unclear, the law stipulates, but the applicant must also be able to speak on a given topic.

Applicants must also be able to use the affirmative and the negative, ask questions, pronounce requests and express forbidding, wishes, opinions, suppositions and explanations. The applicant must correctly use the relations between tenses. The applicant's spoken Estonian must be clear enough to understand, but he or she may take the time to find a suitable word, repeat and reword the phrase, and make mistakes in grammar and syntax.

In another ruling, approved 42-30 with 4 abstentions, the legislators gave the government the right to establish a separate set of requirements for applicants born before Jan. 1, 1930, for invalids of the first category, and for those second category invalids whose state of health makes it impossible for them to pass the examination under normal rules.

Those who received the primary, secondary, or university education in the Estonian language, as well as people with a certificate on the command of the language as required in their respective professions, are exempt from the language examination.

Ministers Accused of Lying About Entry of Russian Troops

OW1102214893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1856 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a news conference in Tallinn on Thursday [11 February] Deputy Chairman of Estonia's National Assembly Edgar Savisaar accused Ministers Rebas, Luik, and Laar of lying about the arrival of more Russian troops in Estonia.

The opposition leaders said that they had documents and tape recordings which confirm that 185 Russian servicemen had been brought into Estonia with the Ministry of Defense and Prime-Minister's full knowledge. According to the Deputy Chairman of the Parliament's Defense Commission Peater Lorents, the command of the Russian motorized division (unit 12,129) [as received] has confirmed this fact on Thursday.

A copy of an application of the unit commander for entry visas for 17 servicemen with a stamp of the construction department of the Estonian Defense Ministry was produced at the news conference.

Tiit Made, member of the parliamentary Foreign Relations Commission said that Vladimir Nestoyanov, the Russian Consul in Estonia, had told the Commission that an "insignificant number," about 300 servicemen, had been brought into Estonia this year.

Prime-Minister Mart Laar, Defense Minister Hain Rebas, and Minister Juri Luik have been saying that they have no knowledge of legal arrival of Russian servicemen.

"Lying has become the style of the Defense Minister. Instead of finding the facts he is trying to hush up the scandal. We have now good reasons not to trust the Minister in other matters, too," said Savisaar.

The point of view of the opposition is that the arrival of Russian servicemen with the authorities being in the know creates a dangerous precedent and is a "demonstration of alarming changes in the country's Eastern policy."

The opposition is made up of four groups, the Centrists, the Coalition Party, the Agrarian League, and the "Estonian Citizen."

Defense Minister, German Counterpart Discuss Cooperation

WS1102152193 Tallinn BNS in English 1903 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 10, BNS—Estonian Defence Minister Hain Rebas met with his German counterpart Volker Ruehe on Tuesday [9 February] to discuss a cooperative defence agreement, a spokesman at the Estonian Defence Ministry told BNS.

Rebas said the talks were positive for Estonia. The Estonian Ambassador to Germany, Tiit Matsulevits, also attended the meeting.

During his visit to Germany Feb. 8-10, Rebas also met with a group of Baltic-German MPs, members of the ruling CDU/CSU [Christian Democratic Union/ Christian Social Union] faction and representatives of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Latvia

Government To Resign if Budget Not Ratified

LD1102223593 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Today at the beginning of the session of the Presidium of the Supreme Council, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Ivars Godmanis announced that at the government sitting a resolution had been adopted that, if the draft budget worked out by the government is not adopted by parliament next week in the reading of its draft, the government has decided to resign. Many members of the presidium perceive this announcement as pressure by the government on parliament, but the presidium did decide to include the question of the draft budget for this year on the agenda for next week's plenary sitting.

For his part, Chairman of the Supreme Council Anatolijs Gorbunovs informed the Presidium about the visit of the head of state to France from 1-3 March. The purpose of this visit is to sign the Franco-Latvian friendship treaty. Also taking part in the visit will be Foreign Minister Georg Andreyev and Minister of Economic Reform Aivars Kreituss. During the visit a meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand is scheduled.

Budget Problems Stop Prime Minister From Visiting Iran

LD1102133693 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] In connection with the Latvian parliament not adopting on Wednesday [10 February] the year's draft state budget in the first reading and a repeat examination of the budget taking place at the Supreme Council on 17 February, Prime Minister Godmanis has decided not to participiate in the planned trip to Iran by a government delegation. It is possible that the leader of the government delegation to Iran will be the Foreign Trade Minister Edgars Zausajevs, if a change of leader of the Latvian Government's delegation is acceptable to the Iranian Government.

Russian Helicopter at Ventspils Departs

LD1102165893 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2100 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The Russian helicopter which illegally landed in Ventspils on 29 January has been returned to Russian army representatives, and has left the Latvian territory.

Lithuania

Brazauskas: Assigning Posts Before Election 'Premature'

OW1102134793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1211 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian Provisional Acting President Algirdas Brazauskas considers the assigning of posts in the state leadership before the 14 February election to be premature. He made the statement in a Thursday [11 February] interview with the Lithuanian press. On the previous day, his rival in the presidential race, Stasys Lozoraitis, suggested that Brazauskas become prime minister in a pre-election "act of political consensus." Brazauskas expressed the hope that Lozoraitis's "act of consensus" would be supported by all of the members of the Seimas. Such a document, he said, had already been examined by all of the republic's political parties in 1990. The main idea of the act is the formation of a coalition government.

The parties are now expressing different opinions regarding Lozoraitis's act of consensus. First Deputy Minister and Seimas Committee on National Security Chairman Giadiminas Kirkilas [name as received], like Brazauskas, considers that the assigning of specific government posts is rather premature.

Centrist representative Jonas Tamulis [name as received] considers the act "the path to attaining a consensus, which we will follow if Lozoraitis wins." In his opinion, the document is "testimony to the groundlessness of the charge that if Lozoraitis is elected, the Seimas and the government will be dissolved." According to Sajudis leader Vytautas Landsbergis, the parties should first of all come to an agreement on an economic program.

Foreign Minister Cited on Ministry's Current Tasks

LD1102140793 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Quite a few news conferences are taking place today in Vilnius. One of them was given by Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys at the Seimas palace. Here is correspondent Algirdas Usas with the details:

[Usas] Povilas Gylys informed journalists about the current activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: the formation of a network of embassies and consular offices and the selection of candidates to the embassies in Moscow, Minsk, and Kiev is under way at the moment. Deividas Matulionis was appointed to the post of provisional charge d'affairs in Estonia yesterday.

A serious obstacle to middle aged and elderly people is their ignorance of foreign languages, the minister stressed. Attempts are made to add more balance to the foreign policy in geographical terms, directing it more to central Europe and cooperating more with the neighbors. There should be no problems arising in the delimitation and demarcation of state borders, especially on land.

A joint declaration treaty with Germany is currently being intensively prepared; it could be ready for signing in March.

The greatest reserves in relations with Russia are in the sphere of psychology and if the trend toward democratization survives, then the prospects are not too bad, the minister said.

Once again the journalists asked about the current situation at the Lithuanian Embassy in the United States. Mr. Gylys replied that so far the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not received an official report either on the composition of the staff or its financial state. However, the minister said he does not want to be drawn into the election campaign.

At the end of the news conference Povilas Gylys admitted that no important decisions on foreign policy (?officials) will be made until the presidential elections are over—and this is understandable.

Preliminary Agreement Reached on Moscow Meeting

OW1102183793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1635 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Preliminary arrangements have been made for setting a meeting between [the] head of the Lithuanian government and the Russian prime minister.

Bronislovas Lubys made this announcement at a press conference in Vilnius on Wednesday [10 February]. In his words, the meeting will apparently be held on the territory of Russia.

In the opinion of Mr. Lubys, one of the primary subjects at the meeting will be the issue of property of Russia's four formerly military plants in Lithuania.

In additions, the parties are also expected to address the problem of mutual accounting, purchase of fuel and power resources, tariffs for cargo transit to [the] Kaliningrad Region, and options for signing a bilateral free-trade agreement.

Economic Accords Signed With Former Republics

LD1202093493 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Lithuania has signed agreements on economic cooperation with four former Soviet republics: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.

A Lithuanian delegation, led by Trade and Industry Minister Albertas Sinevicius, which visited the Central Asian republics, returned today to Vilnius.

Statistics Indicate Resolution on Food Prices Ignored

OW1102133493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1211 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Some areas of the food industry and certain trade enterprises in Lithuania are not fulfilling the republic's governmental decision to stabilise food prices, according to a statement released by the cabinet in Vilnius Thursday [11 February].

The document points out that certain monopolist enterprises and some stores are continuing to overprice goods and increase trade margins. Lithuanian Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys said at a press conference in the republic's capital yesterday that 42% of enterprises which were inspected were selling overpriced products.

Lubis said that the government intended to make every effort to halt price increases for essential food products.